MODERN LITERATURE:

A NOVEL.

VOL. III.

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IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. III.

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Non ignota loquor.

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MO-

MODERN LITERATURE.

CHAPTER I.

HAMILTON, poſſeſſed of his lovely and beloved Maria, was ſtimulated to more conſtant and vigorous intellectual exertions than at any former period of his life. He conſulted with his friends, and balanced with himſelf, whether he ſhould perſevere in the ſtudy of the law, or entirely devote himſelf to literature. To the latter his inclinations prompted; but the former appeared the more conducive to his intereſt. The ability and induſtry which would enable an Erſkine to acquire twelve thouſand in one year, could

ſcarcely earn ſo much to a Robertſon or a Gibbon in the courſe of a literary life. He had been the means of preventing Maria from affiancing herſelf to opulence; ought not he to attempt to ſupply the defect? His friends thinking that no attainments were beyond his reach, if directed to the ſtudy of the law, very ſtrongly urged him to be called to the bar. He at length determined to perſevere in his legal ſtudies, but at the ſame time to carry on his other purſuits. He made very great progreſs in the work which he had undertaken, and by the approach of winter an octavo volume was ready for publication.

Maria, conſidering the world as centered in her huſband, deſired no amuſements or pleaſures that could interfere with his engagements, duties, and ardent wiſh to fulfil them ſpeedily and effectually;

tually; and except two or three plays, a party to Vauxhall, jaunts for a day to ſome of the adjacent villages, ſhe was entirely domeſticated. About the middle of Auguſt, however, William finding that his labours were ſo far advanced as to afford him reſpite for a few weeks, propoſed to carry his wife and Charlotte an excurſion, by a route of which the greater part would be new to him, and all beyond the firſt ſtage to his fair fellow travellers. The ladies had never ſeen Windſor; this, therefore, was the firſt object of their deſtination. On a Sunday morning early they took the road to Hounſlow; changing horſes at Cranford Bridge, they hurried over the bleak and dreary heath; and turning Colnbroke, were gladdened with the proſpect of the grand and commanding battlements of Windſor Caſtle, amidſt ſcenery ſtriking and magnificent, at once uniform and

 diverſified;

diverſified; VARIED in the diſtribution and aſſortment of the beautiful, the romantic, the ſublime, ONE in the intereſt and impreſſiveneſs of the whole. The firſt care of their conductor was to give them a complete and comprehenſive view of the ſituation and proſpects of the royal reſidence. He therefore led them to the ſuper-eminent elevation of the round tower; where ſuch an extent of ſpace opens on every ſide to the aſtoniſhed ſpectator, and exhibits ſuch a multiplicity of objects, as fill him with amazement, which ſubſiding ſufficiently to permit diſtinct attention to the ſeveral compartments, is changed into delight. After viewing in ſucceſſion the verdant and wooded ridge of St. Leonard's Hill; the more gentle eminences, that diverſified with dales, line the approaches from the great park; the romantic environs of Runymede, the ſacred theatre

of

of vindicated rights; the paſtoral ſcenery of Frogmore; the rich fertility of the northern view long level, by its mantling corns that had now aſſumed their ripened yellow hue, diverſifying the verdure of the ſouthern proſpect; fringed with diſtant woods, and bounded by acclivities, which, without leſſening the intereſt of the nearer ſcenery, ſerved to limit contemplation to definite objects. Immediately under the eye occupied in that direction, the nurſe of Britiſh learning raiſed her venerable head; the Thames, meandring through thoſe woods and dales and lawns, and waſhing the glittering towers and hills with its gilded ſtreams, beautiful itſelf, and enhanced every other beauty, and, like the poet's magic pen, whatever it touched adorned.

To a ſpectator of genius, a proſpect does not merely preſent the objects that aſſail his eyes; its chief effect is often

by affociation. Deftitute of fenfibility and fancy a beholder muft be, who reaching the top of Portfdown hill, and defcrying the diftant Ifle of Wight, or the Fareham foreft, the former a more prominent, and the latter a more beautiful object, than the flat environs of Portfmouth, would not chiefly regard the town he was approaching, not as a place containing a certain number of buildings, but as the grand receptacle of Englifh ftrength. Hamilton viewing Windfor tranfcending every place that he had beheld in the various excellencies of external nature, cultivated, but not overwhelmed by art, now regarded it in a different light; as the feat of royalty, fubjecting to the furvey of its owner almoft every different characteriftic of Englifh rural beauty. In its agricultural and paftoral objects it involves the grand inlet of tranfcending

commerce;

commerce ; there its benignant poſſeſſor can, with the exultation of conſcious patriotiſm, happy in the accompliſh-ment of its benevolent purpoſes, ſay—" theſe are the paſtures and farms of ability, enterprize, and induſtry, foſtered by freedom that is regulated by order, and which having produced opulence, with ſkilful taſte employs part of it in ſuper-adding ornament to utility, and an opulence diffuſed through various ranks, giving to the mechanic and the peaſant thoſe neat and comfortable houſes which conſtitute the many flou-riſhing hamlets and villages that preſent themſelves to the gladdened eye. Be-fore us glides the Thames, wafting merchandize between my inland country and my metropolis, and, even here, long before it imbibes the ocean, it preſents a growing ſcene of the induſtry and traffic which ſo eminently diſtinguiſh its ma-

tured courſe beyond all other rivers." "Here," ſaid our hero, pointing to the chapel, "our Sovereign ſeeks, in religion, the beſt ſupport of moderate and virtuous royalty. There learning employs her ſtores in inuring youth to ſound knowledge, juſt principles, and ſentiments which muſt ever ſupport mingled loyalty and freedom."

From this general ſurvey they now deſcended to particularization. They viewed the apartments of the caſtle, which are decorated with ſuch magnificence of diverſified ornaments; contain ſo numerous an aſſemblage and exquiſite a ſelection of monuments of the fine arts; combine the beſt productions of the Flemiſh and Italian ſchools, and alſo ſhew that Engliſh genius taking that courſe, can excel as well as in any other. From the royal ſuite of rooms they now betook themſelves to the Terrace, to

view the SOVEREIGN A PRIVATE GENTLEMAN ON HIS OWN GROUNDS, frankly mingling with his people, and deriving pleafure from the many and ftrong teftimonies of loyalty, delighted with contemplating the welfare and happinefs of its objects. They faw him accompanied by his queen, and furrounded by his family. The fcenery, the mufic, the company, and above all, the royal party, rendered the effect peculiarly impreffive. Our travellers fpent the whole of that day at Windfor: the following morning they took a ride round the great park, and afterwards vifited Eton College. After an early dinner they took the road to Oxford; they were charmed with the romantic beauties between Salt Hill and Henley, where having ftopped half an hour, it was the dufk of the evening, when the fpires and cathedrals of Oxford prefented

ſented themſelves in ſolemn grandeur through the gloom of the twilight. The next morning they walked out to ſurvey the venerable city. It was the ſeaſon of the vacation, and ſtillneſs appeared to prevail throughout; every ſcene ſeemed retired and ſequeſtered—the choſen abodes of profound reflection and philoſophy—

> "——Deep ſolitudes and awful cells,
> "Where ever penſive contemplation dwells."

Theſe were reſervoirs of theoretic wiſdom, whence iſſued ſtreams that being guided by practical ſkill and experience, produced moſt important benefits to ſociety. Here our hero recalled to his mind a reflection he had made at Cambridge, of the benefit that aroſe from the commixture of religious with literary inſtitutions. He mentioned this remark to his intelligent fellow travellers, and

and finding a copy of Newte's tour, read to them a very ſtriking paſſage on the ſubject. "Oxford and Cambridge," ſays that very able writer, "may be juſty conſidered not only as venerable monuments of antient times, but as a kind of garriſon, eſtabliſhed by public authority, for the preſervation of loyalty, literature, and religion. If our univerſities may be thought, in ſome reſpects, to check and retard the progreſs of knowledge, by means of fixed forms, laws, and cuſtoms, it is at leaſt equally certain, that they are ſalutary bulwarks againſt the precipitate and deſolating ſpirit of innovation. The reverence paid by our anceſtors to piety and to learning, ſtrikes us in Oxford as by a ſenſation, and ſhews how fit objects theſe are of eſteem and veneration, to the common ſenſe of mankind. For different nations, and races of princes and

kings, have concurred, in the courſe of many centuries, to pay homage to the ſhrine of ſaints and the ſeats of the muſes. It is not an eaſy matter to prevent or ſhake off a reſpect for any noble or royal family, whoſe antient repreſentatives, the founders and benefactors of the different colleges and halls, are brought to remembrance by pictures, ſtatues, charters, and ſtately edifices. Theſe take faſt hold of the ductile mind of the ſtudents, and are aſſociated in their memory with many of the moſt pleaſing ideas that have ever occupied their minds. From impreſſions of this kind, a love of their early haunts and companions, naturally aſſociated together in their imaginations, is nouriſhed in the breaſts of the generous youth, and alſo an attachment to their king and country. Take away theſe memorials of antiquity, thoſe noble and royal

teſtimonies

THE TANJORE MAHARAJA SERFOJI'S SARASWATI MAHAL

teſtimonies of reſpect to ſanctity of life, and proficiency in learning, remove every ſenſible object, by which ſentiments of early friendſhip, loyalty, and patriotiſm are kindled and inflamed in young minds, and diſperſe our young gentlemen in other countries for their education, or even in ſeparate little academies and ſchools in our own, and you weaken one of the great pillars by which the conſtitution and ſpirit of England is ſupported and perpetuated."

They now proceeded to view the different colleges and libraries. When they were in Pembroke College, our hero obſerved, that as one of the chief glories of Engliſh literature had been educated at this ſeminary, as a monument that they had foſtered ſo very eminent a pupil, they ſhould erect a ſtatue to Samuel Johnſon. They paſſed ſeveral hours in the Bodleian library;

they

they viewed alſo the various chapels, and were particularly pleaſed with ſome of the paintings. The city and univerſity in general impreſſed our travellers with reverence and awe, and the contemplation furniſhed to our hero various ideas that he afterwards found uſeful in his literary purſuits. Having remained a day and two nights at Oxford, they ſet off for Woodſtock to view Blenheim, one of the moſt ſignal monuments of national gratitude to an illuſtrious hero for diſcomfiting the ambitious enemies of his country. From Woodſtock a ſpacious portal of the Corinthian order conducted them into the park, and opened to them the lake, the bridge, but conſpicuous beyond the reſt the caſtle. Deſigned by Sir John Vanburgh, and like the other ſtructures of that architect, ponderous; the palace of Blenheim, nevertheleſs, exhibited re-

gularity and proportion. Admitted into the houſe they found the apartments grand and magnificent, decorated with monuments of genius and of taſte, eſpecially paintings. To the ſpectator who with the exhibitions combined the renowned founder of the Marlborough family, the moſt intereſting were the repreſentations of his heroic actions. The holy family; the offering of the the Magi; our Saviour bleſſing the children; filial affection exemplified in the Roman daughter; return of our Saviour from Egypt; bearing teſtimony to the genius of Rubens, or an honour to the taſte and ſelection of any nobleman, but have no appropriate relation to that illuſtrious family more than any other. The ſame obſervation will apply to the Dorothea of Raphael; the Pope Gregory and Female Penitent of Titian.

But

But the moſt appropriate decorations are the battles of Marlborough repreſented on tapeſtry. The diſpoſition of the grounds was alſo extremely ſkilful; but to the hiſtorical or political reader the moſt intereſting portion was, that which either deſcribed or alluded to the exploits and victories of John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, and eſpecially the lofty column which ſerves as a pedeſtal to the ſtatue of the conſummate general, and preſents an inſcription deſcribing the talents and qualities of the head and heart of this extraordinary perſonage; the atchievements of ſo efficacious and ſingular a character, and the effects which they had produced; the following inſcription compoſed by Bolingbroke, appears to be ſingularly adapted.—

The

The caſtle of *Blenheim* was founded by Queen
ANNE
In the fourth year of her reign,
In the year of the chriſtian æra 1705,
A monument deſigned to perpetuate the memory
of the
Signal victory
Obtained over the *French* and *Batavians*,
Near the village of *Blenheim*,
On the banks of the Danube,
By JOHN, Duke of MARLBOROUGH,
The hero, not only of this nation, but of this age,
Whoſe glory was equal in the council and in the field;
Who by wiſdom, juſtice, candour, and addreſs,
Reconciled various and very oppoſite intereſts;
Acquired an influence
Which no rank, no authority can give,
Nor any force but that of ſuperior virtue;
Became the fixed important centre,
Which united in one common cauſe,
The principal ſtates of Europe;
Who, by military knowledge, and irreſiſtible
valour,
In a long ſeries of uninterrupted triumphs,
Broke the power of *France*,
When raiſed the higheſt, when exerted the moſt,
Reſcued the empire of deſolation;
Aſſerted and confirmed the liberties of *Europe*.

This

This memorial, ſo clear, ſo ſtrong, and ſo appropriate, our hero regarded as peculiarly adapted to its glorious ſubject.

Having viewed whatever appeared moſt worthy of inſpection in Blenheim caſtle and park, our travellers returned to Woodſtock, where they dined, and, in the evening, ſet off for Whitney, whence, that night, they reached Bybury in Gloceſterſhire. Here they found a very good inn, and a young woman, who did not officiate as a ſervant, paid her reſpects to the ladies; upon ſeeing this perſon, our hero thought her very handſome, and after his Maria, one of the moſt charming girls he had ever beheld; and they afterwards found, upon enquiry, that ſhe was reckoned the beauty of the vale of Eveſham. They learned that the moſt commodious apartment for ſupper was a public room, where ſeveral parties were ſitting at different tables.

There

There had been, it ſeems, a play in an adjoining barn; and the greater number of the ſpectators were at ſupper in the wide and extenſive theatre; but a few of the higher order were promoted to the dining room, and our travellers overheard ſome dramatic criticiſm. A decent ſubſtantial looking man declared himſelf extremely delighted, and was proceeding with particulars, when a great, ſtout, portly figure entered in a dreſs which appeared to be an old ſailor's jacket beſpangled with whipcord, and whiſpering ſomething to the waiter, was ſhewn to a box facing that of Hamilton. The company was at firſt ſilent, and then began a clapping, but not ſo loud as to prevent the waiter's voice from being heard bawling, "eggs and bacon for the ghoſt, and a pot of mild ale;" and ſoon after, "for the queen, a glaſs of crank hot and ſtrong, beef

beef ſteaks and onions for Ophelia." Hamilton having heard this order, conceived that the gentleman in the blue jacket, though really ſo abounding in fleſh and blood, was intended to be the ghoſt of the elder Hamlet. Accordingly he accoſted him; "I find, ſir, that by being too late, theſe ladies and I have miſſed the performance of a very excellent tragedy." "Yes," replied the other, "if you know any thing of London plays, you would have been aſtoniſhed with us." "You acted the ghoſt, ſir." "Yes, and Laertes." "But had you not to change your dreſs?" "No; I had no dreſs to change with. I ſhould indeed have taken off the armour, but the taylor was on the ſtage playing the king." "Where is your Hamlet?" "Gone home to ſupper with the ſexton, who acted the part of the grave-digger. I aſſure you, that bating

bating his now and then, forgetting his part, our Hamlet is a capital actor; but here comes the fair Ophelia bearing a mug of porter." The miſtreſs of the Daniſh Prince was arrayed in a green jacket and a red petticoat, that proved Monmouth-ſtreet to extend to diſtant parts of the kingdom. But as ſhe was a fine likely girl, her habiliments appeared to the beſt advantage, and ſhe ſat down by a young farmer, who appeared ſmitten with her charms, while ſhe ſeemed nowiſe to diſcourage his addreſſes, and it required no ghoſt to diſcover what would be the reſult. Our hero thought he had ſeen her ſomewhere, and as ſome parts of the converſation induced the ladies to retire, he entered into diſcourſe with the repreſentative of Hamlet's royal ſire, and Ophelia and her new acquaintance having left the room, he enquired

whence

whence ſhe came. The actor replied, that ſhe came to Worceſter ſeveral months before with an Iriſhman; they called themſelves Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton, but he believed that was not the real name of the man; and farther, that he much doubted whether the woman had any title to his name, be it what it might. The man ſometimes acted and ſometimes preached: he was engaged to deliver a ſermon the following day at Tetbury, where he had made ſeveral female converts. Madam often joined him in his ſpiritual exerciſes, for ſhe had a good pipe, and was an excellent hand at an hymn; and being a handſome clever laſs, was as graciouſly received at the love feaſts and communion of ſaints by the men, as her holy partner was by the women. "Pray," ſaid our hero, "what is this Mr. Hamilton's figure?" "A very tall ſtout fellow, with a mark

on his cheek, which he ſaid he got in defending himſelf againſt a dozen of robbers, for he draws a long bow." Hamilton, as our readers will readily conceive, concluded this ſacred dramatiſt to be no other than his worthy connection Mr. Roger O'Rourke, and reſolved to repair to Tetbury in ſufficient time to participate of the ſpiritual food which this noted cook had provided.

Hamilton and his lovely companion had now been ſome time in bed, and had almoſt fallen aſleep, when they heard a very great noiſe over their heads, and men ſpeaking in a loud and furious tone. Striking a light our hero went to inquire into the cauſe, and entering the room whence the bawling iſſued, found two men in their ſhirts holding and cuffing each other. Having, with ſome difficulty, parted the combatants, who were now battered and bloody,

bloody, he asked what was the ground of the affray, and discovered that it originated in a mistake. The room it seems belonged to the ghost; the young farmer had become the devotee of Ophelia, either for religion or some other reason, and it had been agreed, that they should resume their spiritual confabulations during the solemn stillness of the night. The farmer went to the wrong door, and approaching the supposed Ophelia, was surprized by a hoarse voice, demanding who he was. The farmer, apprehending that another person had anticipated his wishes, in an equal rage approached the bed, its possessor starting up, a combat had ensued. The landlord and various others having now come to the room, the farmer was prevailed on to withdraw, and so the scuffle ended. Our hero returned to Maria, whom he found joined by Charlotte,

lotte, that had been alarmed by the uproar, but quietnefs being reftored, fhe departed. Next morning, our hero being called at an early hour by his previous directions, arofe. Enquiring after the farmer, he learned, that he had huddled on his cloaths with all poffible expedition after the battle, ordered his horfe, and fet off fwearing at Ophelia, and ftill imputing his reception to her defign, and not his own blunder: therein he did that young lady great injuftice, as fhe was fcrupuloufly tenacious of *fuch* promifes. Hamilton now proceeding to the dining room, found Mifs Ophelia fitting alone, with breakfaft apparatus and a book before her. She rofe at his entrance, and made a very affable kind of a courtfey, which fhe accompanied by a no lefs affable fmile. Hamilton afking what the book was, was told, it was a collection of fpiritual hymns, they were to

be that day ſung at Tetbury, where her huſband was to deliver a ſermon. "I certainly have ſeen you, Madam?" She rather hung down her head. "Oh, I remember, Sir; once near the coaſt of Suſſex, you and a very handſome young lady were alone in the wood, the ſame that I ſaw with you laſt night, and who my huſband told me ſince you are now married to." "And is the gentleman that I ſaw with you your huſband?" "Oh, you know all about it, Sir, it is needleſs for me to diſguiſe; but while the ſoul is filled with true faith, what can any acts of the body ſignify, let us not attend to the filthy rags of works; the more we ſtrip ourſelves of what heathens and unbelievers call morality and virtue, the more eaſily may we be covered by the ſplendid robes of imputed righteouſneſs." "Do you, Madam, alſo aſſiſt in preaching?" "Very rarely; I have

ſometimes

ſometimes held forth. I once delivered a diſcourſe on the reſemblance of human and divine love; it was allowed by many perſons, even that had not yet received the effectual calling, that my deſcription of human love was very natural and ſtrong, and we had a good many converts that very day; for I aſſure you, that we have not a more powerful engine of converſion than engaging accounts of the paſſion of love, ſuch ſermons do thrill ſo through the heart."

"You will allow me to obſerve, Madam, that your language and remarks are far beyond what I ſhould have expected from either an itinerant preacher or player, or the aſſociate of my worthy acquaintance Mr. O'Rourke. You certainly have received a liberal education, and have moved in genteel circles."

"Mr. Hamilton," ſhe replied, "I know your character well, and alſo ſome

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circumſtances in which you have been very particularly intereſted. Allow me to aſk you one queſtion: can you ſee in my features or countenance a reſemblance to any perſon that you have known?" Our hero looked a few moments and ſtarted. "I certainly have ſeen a face very like yours, but you are not ſhe." "I am not; but to cut the matter ſhort, my maiden name was Collings, Joanna Collings, the elder ſiſter of Jenny Collings, your Jenny Collings, now the wife of a rich booby ſquire." "I thought, ſaid our hero, that lady was the wife of a clergyman." "She is, but has proved herſelf totally unworthy of ſuch a huſband. My ſtory, Sir, is ſhort and ſimple; but were it told, full of warning inſtruction." The ghoſt actor now making his appearance, interrupted this converſation, and pointing to his wounded head, ſaid, "Mrs. Ophelia,

Ophelia, I have to thank you for laſt night's exploit, that clodpole was one of your lovers, but I will work him; I will proſecute him; I will ſerve him with a *ſcire facias*, by the Lord I will." Ophelia retired without making any reply. Mrs. and Miſs Hamilton now entering, breakfaſt was ſpeedily diſpatched, and they ſet off on the road to Cirenceſter; and having ſtopped two hours to view Lord Bathurſt's houſe and grounds, continued their journey to Tetbury. They learned that the preacher was to exhibit at ſix o'clock in the inn yard, from a tub inverted for his convenience and exaltation. Our hero and his companions had influence with the waiter to have the tub placed before the windows of the parlour, which they occupied. The preacher aſcended and exhibited the very phyſiognomy of O'Rourke. Ophelia was, by this time, arrived at the

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ſcene of ſpiritual inſtruction, and officiated as precentor in the modulation of the pſalms; and after one or two extempore prayers, O'Rourke began a ſermon in ſomewhat better language than Hamilton would have expected, from his knowledge of Roger's powers and erudition. The ſubject was the joys of Heaven. His explanation on this momentous topic was ſomewhat on the Mahomedan eſtabliſhment, and proceeded on a ſuppoſition, that the ſupreme conſtituent of felicity would be Love. He had got various ideas on that ſubject from his fair aſſociate, but now and then made additions of his own. "I proceed now (he ſaid) to the accommodations of Heaven under the words of my text, 'pleaſure for evermore.' The beſt way of judging of the joys of Heaven, is by conſidering what rejoices the ſaints here upon earth: for inſtance,

instance, now we ourselves like good eating and drinking as well as those in a state of reprobation, and do you think we shall not have a very good table, and plenty of wine, or a drop of whisky, or any other such necessaries as those who have got the effectual calling relish in their present state? It will be no work and free quarter there, and what can an honest fellow wish for more. But the choicest pastimes will be the company of the angels." Expatiating particularly upon this topic, his conceptions evidently admitted a great portion of earthly instead of Heavenly perfection. "There will be the pretty *dare* cratures to rejoice the hearts of the saints, with their sparkling eyes and their sweet *lucks*, and their fine shapes, all dressed in white muslin; and to use a *samalay*, all as one as the curragh of Kildare, which every one allows to be one of the finest sights

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in the univerſe; and the country is ſo pretty and pleaſant, as grand as the bay of Dublin, or Lochſwilly, or Carrick-furgus itſelf, that faces Port Patrick, as you go over to Scotland; as ſweet as the flowery banks of the Shannon, which you know is the ſubject of a very fine ſong; part of the words are,—

"Now Patty, ſofteſt of thy ſex,
Let love's ſweet power prevail."

And here the divine hummed the tune. "but we ſhall have it at the love-feaſt in the evening. But to return to what we was ſpeaking of: Heaven is as romantic and charming as—now there is ſome very fine proſpects not far from this very place, that ſome of you may know, that will give ſome idea of the face of the country in Heaven. There is Malvern wells; this ſame valley of Eveſham; but Clifton and King's Weſton gives them the go-by, though I

muſt

muſt ſay the Avon is rather muddy. Ah, God help you; it is not like our clear Iriſh ſtreams. Our Bannar for inſtance; my little Ophelia has a very good ſong about that too, which ſhall be forth-coming at the love-lectures: but Heaven is moſt like the lake of Killarney. There will be alſo no want of muſic in Heaven; and, I do ſuppoſe, it will be different according to different taſtes. For myſelf, I think the choiceſt inſtrument is the Iriſh bag-pipe; and ſhould Courtenay be gone there, we cannot have a better hand; I ſhall find him out, he is a ſweet countryman of my own. I forgot to ſay one article in the eating way, there will be the choiceſt fruits, eſpecially potatoes. Now having deſcribed Heaven, it may be as well to ſay a few words about hell, although, it being no very agreeable ſubject, I ſhall not be after taking up much

of your time. But you that are making faces there, what are you about? is it mocking me you are? be *afy* now. I have a fhillelah now, and a good tough bit of a fwich it is. Ay, you will do now, fo I fhall go on to defcribe hell; with which, unlefs you will follow my counfel, you, Mr. Smirker, will be better acquainted fome day or other. It is a hideous kind of a place, like the coal-pits of Staffordfhire, or to come nearer the point, like the great cavern in the Devil's own premifes; there is a great furnace, juft like the glafs-houfes, where unbelievers are roafted, all as one as pigs, in the great cook-fhops, as you pafs through Porrige Ifland; and as they are alive all the time, they muft be in a pretty kind of a combuftion. There is a ferjeant's guard of devils over every fire. Now Heaven and hell, you may perhaps *perfave*, are different kind of

accommodations; and certainly, every man that has his *ſeven* ſenſes about him muſt ſee, that the one is a much better kind of a lodgment than the other; but as our play ſaid laſt night, 'any fool knows that.' The next queſtion is, how are we to get to Heaven? We are the boys to direct you; your parſons, and your biſhops, and them kind of people, will tell you long rigmarole ſtories about practiſing virtue and morality, as they call it; that is a very troubleſome kind of way, and a great reſtraint upon a poor fellow, and up-hill work. But we that follows the true doctrines, myſelf among many others, gets you a *ſhort cut*, all eaſy and down-hill, all that you have to do is to believe.—What? you will ſay; why what your preacher tells you; that is, the *whole ſacret of getting to Heaven.* If you do that, there's nothing to hinder you to take your glaſs, or any other

kind of recreation that may ſuit your fancy. But the beſt proof you can give of believing your preacher, is by ſhewing your reſpect. There is to be a collection this evening, a word to the wiſe; after the collection I ſhall ſolve caſes of conſcience at eight o'clock till ten, when we meet at the love-lectures; for I am the man to ſhew you the way to ſalvation, as ſure as I ſtand here." At this inſtant the preacher, leaning too far forward, ſlipped his foot from the edge of the tub, and came to the ground; and ſome prophane ſcoffers having ſet up a laugh, the ſaint, in his paſſion, forgot his piety, and d———d them for a parcel of ſcoundrels. "I ſee you very well, and if I could find out which it is, I would darken his daylights for him." A very ſtout fellow, who conceived the preacher's looks directed to him, came forward and ſaid, with much indignation; "thee

darken

darken my daylights, I will vight thee vor vive guineas." O'Rourke, whofe courage, as we have already feen, did not equal his ftrength, obferved, " that the challenger, though not fo tall as he, was extremely active and mufcular; thought proper to mention his facred calling, and he haftily withdrew into the houfe." Here he foon met with our hero, who took him fomewhat feverely to tafk, for fo much longer an abfence from his family than he had promifed; and gave him to underftand, that if ever he expected any countenance or fupport from the family or fortune of Etterick, he muft entirely change his plan of conduct. O'Rourke, who ftood greatly in awe of Hamilton, made many promifes of fpeedy amendment; but he was, for the prefent, engaged by his honour, both in playing and preaching, that he muft, for a few weeks, continue at

his employments. Hamilton knew O'Rourke too well to ſuppoſe honour could be any kind of reſtraint upon his actions. Originally unprincipled and profligate, he was not likely to have learned rectitude and moderation from his vagabond life, either as a ſtrolling player or as a ſtrolling preacher; and, indeed, the little he had heard ſince he fell in with his aſſociates, entirely concurred with this view of probability. The real truth it ſeems was, O'Rourke, who deteſted his wife, had no intention to return to her, unleſs driven by neceſſity; and he found his preaching and other gifts becoming tolerably productive. His barn exhibition had, indeed, only brought him ſeventeen ſhillings and ſixpence; but the tub oratory was four times that ſum. The caſes of conſcience varying from ſixpence to a crown per head, averaged nineteen pence

pence halfpenny; and as he difpatched them very expeditioufly, efpecially the fixpenny confultations, he managed about twenty-four of an evening; making, if there be any truth in calculation, one pound nineteen fhillings. He befides received private gifts on various occafions, and had already acquired the expertnefs of an old practitioner, in levying fupplies for the fake of diftreffed brethren, and of thefe contributions he gave fuch an account as is ufual among the itinerant fraternity. But though he had no intention of repairing to Etterick, he gave a moft folemn promife to Hamilton to be there in fix weeks at fartheft. Hamilton wifhing for farther acquaintance with the manner of Methodifm, expreffed a defire to be let into fome of the fecrets of the cafes of confcience, and endeavoured to learn if it was poffible to be an unobferved witnefs. By

the miniſtry of a waiter, who, being ſon of the ſexton, abominated all that might tend to leſſen the payments to the pariſh church, he was concealed in a cloſet adjoining the apartment of the counſellor of conſcience.

The firſt perſon that applied was, by his own account, a ſhop-keeper. The parſon of the pariſh, it ſeems, had, by ſome means, diſcovered that this dealer had two kinds of weights and meaſures; one for thoſe that he ſuppoſed to be very ſharp, and another for them that he ſuppoſed to be very flat. The clergyman had repreſented this diſtinction as very iniquitous, and aſſured the tradeſman, that if he perſiſted in fraud, that puniſhment would ſooner or later overtake him, if not in this, at leaſt in the next world. The man was unwilling to relinquiſh a practice ſo very gainful; and having fre-

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quently heard, that the circulating preachers were much more indulgent to deviations from morality, he had repaired to the ſermon of Mr. O'Rourke, and was very much ſatisfied with the ſhort cut that he deſcribed; but wiſhing to be more particularly informed, applied perſonally to the learned O'Rourke, having ſtated his caſe and expreſſed his hopes, that his practice was not inconſiſtent with the true faith. The preacher replied, "I muſt firſt aſk you ſome queſtions; you have made a good round ſum, I ſuppoſe, by this kind of traffic?" "I have not been unſucceſsful." "Have you applied any part of the proceeds to the relief of the brethren?" "Oh yes, I pay the poor's rates." "Be after underſtanding me, I mane to us, the believing boys." "No, I cannot ſay I have, except half-a-crown I gave to-day at the collection."

"Oh,

" Oh, that will not do gra, you will not get off ſo aſy; charity, as I demonſtrated to you, covereth a multitude of ſins, therefore your beſt way is to give me a ſmall part of your profits, three or four guineas, or five, as a *nater* kind of a ſound, which I ſhall employ according to the beſt of my judgment." " Five guineas is a great ſum, pleaſe your reverence, and I do not ſee how it can leſſen the ſin." " You do'nt! then I will ſhew you, my boy, how it will leſſen the puniſhment. What would you ſay if I was to go and inform againſt you now; you could be very eaſily convicted, and I would refer it to the diſcovery of your parſon, ſo do not ſpeak againſt charity to me, you ſee your reputation is in my power." The client comprehended this hint, as well as the character of the intimator, and not chooſing to run a riſk, offered a couple of guineas, which the

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counſellor vouchſafed to accept, and told him not to bother himſelf with any concern about his weights, to read George Whitfield's works, Mr. Coalheave's ſermons, the Miſſionary Reports, the hymns of the tabernacle, and of the new chapel hard by Sadler's Wells, he forgot the name, and the new magazines for ſupporting the cauſe of the brethren, eſpecially their poetry, compoſed by a brother tradeſman of your own, when work was ſlack in Spittlefields." This client being departed, another made his appearance, a poor, thin, ſneaking-looking perſon. "Well, my friend," ſaid O'Rourke, "how long have you been converted, and what are your doubts?" "Oh, I have been *convarted* this two months, and have no doubts myſelf, its my wife that I want to be convarted, as fine a likely woman as is in all Tetbury, if ſhe had but the effectual calling; but ſhe

ſhe meaks geam of me and the new light, but for that matter ſhe uſed to meak geam of me before I was convarted; ſo I thought, Sir, I would make bold to ax if your reverence would lend me your aſſiſtance." "Oh, that I will." A female voice was now heard calling "Jerry, come along and mind your buſineſs," and the door opening, a tall ſtrapping wench appeared. "Come now, Polly, hear what this good man can do for your welfare and comfort, and do not be obſtropulous, but obedient." The preacher having regarded her with much complacency ſaid, "Mr. Jerry, you may lave us, I can inſtruct your ſpouſe without your company." Jerry withdrew, and the wife was about to follow him, but he begged her to hear him a few minutes, ſhe would not find his inſtructions ſo diſagreeable as ſhe apprehended. A parley

ley enſued, in which he undertook to explain the doctrines of love, and particularly the love of the brethren towards ſpiritual ſiſters. But though his doctrine made ſome impreſſion, he prematurely ſuppoſed it more perſuaſive than it hitherto was; why ſhould not the lambs of faith play together? He now made advances which ſhe could not poſſibly miſapprehend, but ſhe not being hitherto converted to his faith, received them as they deſerved, and threatened to expoſe him as a wolf in ſheep's cloathing. O'Rourke ſo far mollified her as to prevent the execution of this threat, and ſhe departed. The preacher was a good deal ruffled at this diſappointment, when a young woman entered with a very down-caſt appearance, and having unfolded her doubts and apprehenſions reſpecting the ſtate of her faith; from her confeſſion, it appeared, that ſhe was an innocent and exemplary young wo-

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man, the induſtrious ſupporter of her widowed and infirm mother, but had unfortunately been ſeized with this maddening enthuſiaſm, and fancying herſelf deficient in the requiſite grace, had become hypocondriac, and conceived an attention to her buſineſs, exerciſed from filial duty, as too worldly, and an encroachment on the time that ought to be excluſively devoted to ſpiritual concerns. But natural affection ſtill operating, notwithſtanding theological perverſion, ſhe wiſhed to find from the preacher, if induſtry, for the relief of a parent, was compatible with religious duty. O'Rourke expecting from her very little conſultation fee, wanted to diſpatch her as ſoon as poſſible, to make room for more profitable and agreeable cuſtomers; and being ſtill enraged, he gave her a moſt dreadful deſcription of her condition, and told her, that if ſhe did not give herſelf entirely up to the new

faith,

faith, ſhe would be moſt aſſuredly damned. The poor creature, at this, fell into an hyſteric fit; which alarming the houſe, the confeſſional was, for a time, diſturbed. Our hero thinking it incumbent on him to leſſen, if poſſible, the miſery which he had witneſſed, determined, in the morning, to call on the next clergyman and requeſt his intervention in behalf of this worthy but unfortunate girl.

Meanwhile he attempted to detach O'Rourke from this miſchievous craft, and by taking one from theſe peregrinators, ſomewhat to diminiſh the vice, folly, or phrenzy, which reſults from ignorant and deſtructive teachers. Having ordered ſupper, he enquired for the preacher, and learned that he was gone abroad to a love-feaſt; and taking it for granted, that the conviviality and other attractions of that kind of entertainment

tainment might detain him for the evening, he deferred to execute his refolution till the following morning. As he was fupping in company with his ladies, the waiter, who was juft returned from the kitchen, told him, that there was fome rumpus about the preacher, but that he did not know the rights of it, however he would enquire: before he was gone for that purpofe a man entered the room, pale, wildly ftaring, and in a furious tone accofted our hero: "You, I underftand, belong to the fame gang; you are one of the ftrolling company, and are in the plot." Hamilton begging his wife and fifter not to be alarmed, very coolly and civilly affured him, that he was in no plot to give him any uneafinefs; that there was fome miftake. The ftranger having furveyed both Hamilton and the ladies, faid, he apprehended he muft have been mifinformed,

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for that from their appearance he could not conceive they would be aſſociates with ſuch a ſcoundrel; though he be your brother, ſir, he is a villain, and an infamous villain." "There is no brother of mine, at preſent, in the kingdom, and I am ſure there is none any where to whom your deſcription is applicable. But I am convinced there is ſome miſapprehenſion; what is the perſon's name that has offended you, and what is he?" "His name," ſaid the other, "is Hamilton, is not that your name, Sir? I know it is." "Hamilton certainly is my name; but who is this pretended brother of mine?" "That methodiſt preacher, he is your brother, he himſelf has acknowledged that his brother, Mr. Hamilton, was at the inn." A note now came to our hero, which was conceived in theſe words:—

"My Dare Sir,

"It has pleafed Providence to get me into a bad fcrape, fo that unlefs you lend a *help in* hand to relieve me, I will be rather ill off. I pafs for your brother, fo pray do not contradict it, and I promife you, if I get out of the *clamper*, I fhall never do fo no more.

"Your's, to command,

"Roger O'Rourke."

Hamilton now afked the other, "What his ground of complaint was againft the perfon in queftion ?" "The moft heinous in the world. He has robbed me of the affection and honour of a wife, whom I loved, and even yet love to madnefs; who was to me the beft, fondeft of women, till feduced firft to mad enthufiafm, and afterwards to difhonour by this fophifter, this profligate hypocrite,

hypocrite, this blaſphemer of religion." The ladies now retiring, our hero learned from the ſtranger, that he was a gentleman who had a moderate eſtate near Tewkeſbury, that he had for ſeveral years been the huſband of a farmer's daughter whom he had married for love, and they had lived in the moſt perfect happineſs. His wife poſſeſſing great ſenſibility, and a romantic fancy, had, in the courſe of a viſit at Briſtol, been carried to one of the meetings of Moravians, or other fanatic adventures there, ſhe had imbibed a liking for viſionary abſurdities, and ſoon became the profeſſed devotee of the romances of methodiſm. Though he ſaw the change with regret, yet not apprehending the moral depravity that ſo naturally reſults from a ſyſtem which enchains the underſtanding, and unmuzzles all the wild impetuoſity of paſſion; which de-

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bafes the fentiments, and vitiates the tafte, as well as depraves the conduct. "Having feen you, Sir, and converfed with you, I am convinced I muft have done you injuftice in fuppofing this ignorant vulgar fellow your brother." Without directly anfwering this obferva- tion or queftion, our hero requefted him to proceed: he accordingly went on. "When fhe returned, this man, Hamilton, was an itinerant preacher through the country. She was pleafed with his devotion. I having the utmoft confidence in her affection and fidelity, though I difapproved of her new articles of faith, yet never having contradicted her, I indulged her propenfity; alas! thinking that becaufe the doctrines were jargon, the practice muft be harmlefs, though filly and abfurd, but I have fince fatally difcovered my error. Laft night my Harriet eloped from my houfe, and

after

after various ſearches and enquiries, I learned that ſhe had left her huſband and children to be a companion of this ruffian. Tracing his courſe, I diſcovered that he was at one of the fanatical meetings,—entered the place, accompanied by a faithful ſervant,—found the villain in a ſmall party—preſented a piſtol to his head—and ordered him, on pain of immediate death, to produce my wife. He confeſſed his crime, and prayed for mercy, and ſaid, that the lady was to meet him this night at the inn, where his brother, Hamilton, and his ſpouſe and his ſiſter Charlotte now were. Leaving him guarded, I haſtened hither to charge you, Sir, with being privy to the injury which I have received, and in which, I am now thoroughly convinced, that I did you injuſtice; I am aſſured from your deportment, appearance, and converſation, you cannot be

the aſſociate of ſuch a perſon, even if you have the misfortune to be his brother."—" Which, Heaven be praiſed (replied Hamilton), is not the caſe; but to the diſgrace of the family to which I belong, the fellow is married to a near relation of mine." " But," ſaid the other haſtily, " the unhappy woman may be now concealed in the houſe," and he ran out. A meſſage now arrived from O'Rourke, requeſting to ſee Mr. Hamilton in the kitchen of the inn, to which he had been conducted by directions of the landlord, who, having the office of chief magiſtrate, did not conceive that juſtice would halt one whit the more, though ſhe carried a barrel or two of his beer with her. Hamilton, after ſome deliberation, deſcended and found the preacher in durance, and guarded by two or three ſtout fellows. He had repeatedly demanded his liberty,

and

and indeed there was no charge against him that could juftify legal detention. "Here," he faid, "is my brother Hamilton, who will bail me; I have not been the leaft to blame, a man put a piftol to my head, and I would confefs any thing rather than be fhot." Before Hamilton could make any anfwer to his repeated applications for affiftance, the reprefentative of Ophelia entered the apartment, juft as her Hamlet was moft folemnly appealing to Heaven for his innocence. With impaffioned violence fhe exclaimed, "innocence! a more guilty wretch difgraces not Newgate. Here is a fellow who, pretending to religion, makes that facred principle the cloak for his vices; the chief purpofe and effects of his fanctified difcourfes and behaviour; his feduction, fraud, and extortion." O'Rourke endeavoured to

quiet her. "My dare Joanna, won't you be eaſy now, conſider, we are fellow labourers in the vineyard of the new faith, you yourſelf have been my chief teacher; the ſaints in all antient times, both now and formerly, have been perſecuted for the ſake of righteouſneſs, and I muſt have my own ſhare." Here Joanna anſwered in a violent paſſion:— "But have not you, you villain, after all your oaths and imprecations, deſerted me? have not you engaged to give me the ſlip; to give me up intirely, for this your new miſtreſs? if you are determined to be Punch, Sir, I will be Joan, but I found out your ſcheme, Sir, and I diſcovered them to the lady's huſband. I found out the letter, ſirrah." "And ſo it was you, Miſtreſs," ſaid O'Rourke, "that expoſed me to all this ſhame and diſgrace, but I will pound you to brick-

duſt

duſt for it;" and here he attempted to ſeize her, but the intervention of the company confined his hands; it did not, however, confine her tongue, and ſhe began a very impaſſioned, but not unconnected, detail of the deception, roguery, and profligacy, which he had practiſed during his itinerancy. "You ſhall find this a worſe villainy than at Glouceſter." The ſervant of Mr. Benſon, the gentleman who had laſt ſuffered from O'Rourke, now made his appearance with a regular warrant, that he had obtained for apprehending this fellow, under ſuſpicion of being in poſſeſſion of a gold watch, the property of Mr. Benſon, which had diſappeared the evening before his wife left the houſe, and which Joanna had aſſured him it was moſt probable O'Rourke muſt poſſeſs, with alſo an order to ex-

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amine his box and effects. The search was executed, and the watch was found in a corner of the trunk, carefully wrapped up in a sermon of Huntingdon, with a book of hymns on the one hand, Whitfield's sermons on the other, and hard by it a book of poems, equal in wickedness, but not in wit, to the productions of a celebrated nobleman, who flourished in "King Charles's merry reign;" a pair of pistols, a cutlass, and several other articles. Hamilton, on this discovery, assured of the fellow's guilt, resolved to abandon him to his fate, and to write to the clergyman of Etterick to communicate the catastrophe to his uncle, whom he knew it would grieve more than surprize, and gradually open it to his unfortunate cousin. With this resolution he retired to his apartment. The next morning, one of the first pieces of

news

news he heard was, that Mr. O'Rourke had found means to eſcape, and with him a ſilver tankard; and that Mr. Benſon, not having yet found his wife, was gone to Briſtol in queſt of the fugitives.

CHAPTER II.

OUR hero and his fellow travellers now continued their journey, and, in a few hours, arrived at Briſtol, and ſpent the remainder of that day in ſurveying the charming proſpects which Clifton afforded. The company at the Hotwells was not numerous, and our hero found no names or people with whom he had any acquaintance. The following day they proceeded to Bath, through a moſt delightful country, with all the paſtoral verdure of beginning ſummer, and yellow fruitfulneſs of autumn; with a picturesque ſucceſſion and interſperſion of hill, dale, vale, and den,. watered by numberleſs ſtreams which a heavy rain, the preceding night, had recruited from

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the drought of the dog-day heats, while it had alſo freſhened all the other objects. At length they came in ſight of the delightful city of Bath. This charming retreat is ſituated in a deep narrow valley, bounded on the north, ſouth, and ſouth-weſt, by lofty hills, forming a very pleaſant, natural amphitheatre, and affording the city a double advantage, a barrier againſt the winds, and fountains of the pureſt waters. Theſe hills abound with white free-ſtone, of which the houſes are built. On the north-weſt ſide the valley widens, divided into rich meadows, watered by the river Avon. At this ſeaſon of the year, the town being almoſt empty of viſitants, the objects of their attention were the town itſelf, its accommodations, and ornaments. With much pleaſure they found, that with the various ſources of health, and proviſions for gaiety and ſplendour,

mingled

mingled numerous institutions for benevolence and compassion; and learned, that in the midst of amusement, relaxation, and abstraction, from the cares of business, there was a tear for pity, and a liberal hand for melting charity. With English generosity, they found, that there was a tincture of the unsuspicious openings of English credulity, and that Bath was a great receptaclé for gamblers, quack doctors, legacy hunters, jugglers, fortune tellers, methodist preachers, and other adventurers in swindling, who wish to obtain the property of their neighbours, without giving any value in return. These, however, so far from being dishonourable to Bath, are merely symtomatic of its great and numerous delights, which attract the opulent and liberal from all parts of the kingdom, and these bloodsuckers naturally follow; and, indeed, the absence from

from serious concerns, which chiefly distinguishes Bath, is peculiarly conducive to the custom of either the gaming-house or the conventicle, as gallantry reigns there as well as in other places. These pastimes, particularly the itinerant assemblages, are extremely conducive to gallantry. Indeed, if Ovid, when he wrote his "Treatise on the Art of Love," had been acquainted with Methodism, instead of directing young bucks, that might be in quest of a mistress, to the Circus and Theatre, he would have sent them to the Tabernacle; the former, as he acknowledges, might fail even in the warm latitudes of Italy, but the latter is a sure repository, in the most northern parts of Britain *. But to return from this

* See Missionary Travels and Adventures through Scotland, published in 1799 by James Haldane and Co. in their Expedition to detach the

this digreſſion, our hero, among other places, conducted his ladies to the ſouth parade, whence they had ſo delightful a proſpect. They were particularly ſtruck with Prior Park, the aſpect of which ſo greatly reſembled Fielding's deſcription of Mr. Allworthy's ſeat. As they walked about in this charming promenade, they felt their ſpirits enlivened by the number and variety of gay and agreeable objects. Though Bath was, at this time, empty in compariſon to its moſt

the Scottiſh Flocks from their eſtabliſhed Paſtors. Not having the treatiſe before us, we cannot exactly quote the pages to which the above remark alludes, but, to the beſt of our remembrance, the ſcene is the Orkneys, ſoon after the panegyriſing account of the ſoldier that, having deſerted his drum, had betaken himſelf to preaching, immediately before the chapter wherein an unbeliever is converted to the new faith by ſtumbling over a cow. From this context, which our imperfect recollection ſupplies, the reader of the above work will be able to find the illuſtrative paſſages.

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flouriſhing ſeaſons, yet was it not without ſome variety of characters, with ſome of which our hero luckily found the means of becoming acquainted. As they were leaving the South Parade, a gentleman accoſted Hamilton, whom he recognized to be a reſident at Bath; that, in an occaſional viſit to London, he had met, in different parties, both faſhionable and literary. This was a Mr. Mancheſter, who, a man of liberal education and good talents, had been intended for the bar, but having unexpectedly ſucceeded to a conſiderable eſtate, had not practiſed; and becoming expenſive and diſſipated, had waſted half his fortune. Recovering, however, from his infatuation, before he was entirely undone, he had retired from the metropolis to Bath, where he could live more cheaply, and enjoy the epitome of London pleaſures. One of his chief amuſe-

ments was the obfervation of characters, a paftime for which, naturally fagacious, thoroughly acquainted with the world, and having no ferious employment, he was admirably calculated; and being fomewhat foured by the confequences of his youthful follies, faw and exhibited the foibles of others with farcaftic acrimony. After fome converfation, this gentleman, learning that Hamilton and his ladies intended to vifit the rooms, offered to accompany them, and which was very gladly received. Till the eftablifhed hour, he paffed the intermediate time at the White Hart, and amufed them with anecdotes numerous and fatirical. At feven they croffed over to the Pump Room; and being introduced to the mafter of the ceremonies by Mr. Manchefter, were very gracioufly received; and as none of them chofe to dance, they liftened, with very

very little interruption, to the remarks of their companion. "Obſerve," he ſaid, "that ſlender ſoft-looking young man, that is bowing with ſuch obſequiouſneſs to a fat portly dowager, as he ſneaks along the ſide of the room; what would you ſuppoſe him to be?" "Some perſon dependant on thoſe that he paſſes." "The ſuppoſition is natural, but not juſt; that is Mr. Commode, who received the chief part of his tuition in Taviſtock-ſtreet, as a man-milliner, where he learned to bow with a ſimpering obſequiouſneſs to the cuſtomers of the ſhop, until coming to a good fortune of his uncle, a rich ſoap-boiler, at Briſtol, he was made a Captain of Militia. Still he retains the manners and habits of his former craft, and gives his directions to the orderly ſerjeant in the ſame tone of voice as he uſed to ſay, 'pray, Miſs, would you have your hat done

done with an orange or lilac ribbon, them lilacs are now very much worn; you would have the handkerchief very ſmall and thin." A very loud horſe-laugh calling their attention, Mr. Mancheſter laughing alſo, though with much leſs vociferation; "Oh, I know that voice well, its owner is Blunderbuſs the attorney, that large gigantic fellow, with the broad ſhoulders and thick calves, in the crimſon coloured coat (and as the perſon in queſtion turned about, Mancheſter proceeded), with a broad and thick head, the red pluſh waiſtcoat, and the nankeen breeches; that worthy litigant is alſo out of his element, he is a native of Briſtol, and his father, being clerk to a juſtice of the peace, undertook to breed Bob to the law. Bob, however, having connections of his own, preferred another courſe; his chief intimate, a boatſwain of a man of war, was extremely

extremely ſtruck with his muſical talents, and prevailed on him to accompany him to his ſhip; there he was ſoon found qualified for the place of a mate, and at length, his friend being promoted to a larger ſhip, he himſelf obtained the appointment of boatſwain, which he held till ſome years after the end of the war: he was remarkable for domineering wherever he durſt, and for truckling to all his ſuperior officers. Returning home he reſumed his legal practice, and became the attorney of the village of Hambrook, there being no other lawyer in the place, he did pretty well in common matters; but *being exceſſively ſtupid, could not be truſted out of the dog-trot way.*" "He has, I ſuppoſe," ſaid our hero, "the chicanery of a pettyfogger." "Not much of that," ſaid the other, "he has good will, but not head for it: he makes ſad blunders; if he

he is employed to hunt after evidence, inftead of inveftigating the truth by dexterity and infinuation, and winding it out from unwilling witneffes, he talks to them as if he were at 'a hey for the boatfwain's whiftle'." "With all his thicknefs, I fuppofe," faid our hero, "from his jolly corporation and clothes, he has got into the fecret of making long bills." "Oh, that he has, he charges as highly as the firft attorney in Briftol." "That is very unfair," faid one of the ladies, "for a man, without ability and fkill, to rate his fervices as highly as a mafter of his profeffion." "Not intentionally unfair in him, Madam," faid Manchefter, "Blunderbufs is a blockhead, but Blunderbufs does not know himfelf to be a blockhead." "How does fuch a fellow get bufinefs." "He is the only lawyer in the place, courts the 'fquire and all his retinue,

down

down to his huntſman or whipper-in; regales them with the ‘ boatſwain hoarſely bawling;’ and, as far as noiſe goes, is a very pleaſing companion. He to, by ſome means, has ſucceeded to a fortune, and ſets up now, as you ſee, for a beau.”

“ Do you know that clergyman,” ſaid Hamilton, “ that is walking between two ladies on the oppoſite ſide of the room.” “ Very well, he is one of our moſt popular preachers, a very different practitioner in his profeſſion from Blunderbuſs, and perfectly ſkilled in hitting the prevailing taſte. The profeſſional excellencies of our great theatrical performers are ſo extremely impreſſive, that bold adventurers in divinity, ſeeing the efficacy of tone and jeſture in this ſtage, *have undertaken to dramatize the pulpit*; and this is one of the moſt ſucceſsful actors. He has a fine voice, both as to tone and cadence, and thereby

pleafes fuch fafhionables hearers as judge of fermons upon the principle of the Opera. He has graceful attitudes, and therefore is pleafing to church-going connoifeurs in dancing: he has fine action, the fee-faw of hands, with his right the touch of the heart, at once difplaying his feeling and his diamond ring: he cries at the proper place, that is, where a gap in the fenfe requires fuch a fuppliment. Thefe movements are extremely delightful to fuch theatrical connoiffeurs as regard, in the pulpit, ftage-trick more than the real exhibition of nature, truth, and fenfe. He is befides famed for elocution, and delivers common-place remark with fuch a degree of impreffivenefs, as to pafs, with the bulk of his hearters, for the profoundeft wifdom and moft energetic eloquence. He thereby delights the many votaries of fpouting and frequenters of debating focieties.

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Such a delicacy is ſo very efficacious as, in a great degree, to ſuperſede the neceſſity of genius, learning, and eloquence; even elegant compoſition is not requiſite: indeed, how can one compoſe without materials: all that is requiſite in the language, is the muſical melody of the ſeveral periods, without any diſpoſition, or connection, or adjuſtment of parts to the whole. There are other ingredients in his diſcourſes that are extremely ſuitable to the prevailing taſte, the whine of ſentiment, and the vagaries of deſcription, which are peculiarly pleaſing to the novel-reading claſs of church-goers. You have the "tender ties of affection, delicious endearments, ſweet reciprocations of love", all as animated as in the tales of Derwent Priory, Sir Harry Clarendon, or any other effuſion of the Gallimatia preſs. Beſides his hair, ſo ſkilfully matted and baked,

baked, his white cambrick handkerchief, and his opera-glafs, announcing a beau, naturally attract the regard of the belles. Your popular preachers are moreover men of ftature, and the fame figures that are in requeft in the pulpit, are chiefly fought to ftand behind a carriage, and would alfo have been choice acquifitions to Serjeant Kite; and he that is born to be fix feet high, is born to be a great man. With fo many qualifications, you may depend on it, Mr. Gillyflower, the clerical harlequin before us, would outftrip, in favour, a Horfeley, a Watfon, a Blair." "I can hardly think that," faid our hero. "Cannot you," replied Manchefter: "pray whether is Belvidera and Lady Randolph, or Mother Shipton and General Jackoo, moft highly prized?"

A groupe now attracted their eyes, confifting of feveral pairs; firft, there

was

was a tall, raw-boned, elderly officer, with a lady, his co-temporary in years, but very gayly and youthfully dreſſed. Miſs, for ſo it ſeems ſhe was, primmed and ſimpered with a capacious mouth, while Maſter ſighed and ogled, from eyes whoſe regard was oblique, the one looking to the right, while the other turned in towards the noſe; and the lady was heard to whiſper, "There is not a decent-looking perſon in the room out of our own party; *what frightful mawkins the women are!*" Next came a ſmart girl about twenty, ſquired by a gentleman whom ſhe called captain; thirdly, a young lady about the ſame age, with a ſtalking form of godlineſs by her ſide, while a youth brought up the rear, whoſe countenance denoted a great mixture of archneſs and ſimplicity. "This," ſaid Mancheſter, "is the family of the Clodpoles, that have come

to have a peep at Bath, and to get acquainted with the grandees. Aunt Deborah, who takes the lead, is entrufted with the care of the young folks, and a precious governante fhe is, and a precious fet of acquaintances has fhe formed. Deborah has been ogling at the other fex until her eyes are almoft dim with the exercife. For five-and-forty years that fhe has continued in a ftate of celibacy, thirty of the time has fhe been trying to get out of it. The old gentleman whom fhe now affails having been a merchant, and not fucceeding fo well while he was whole, found himfelf much better off, when, after due preparation, he broke. Finding the experiment anfwer very well once, he thought it would not be amifs to try it twice, when it did ftill better; to be fure he could not obtain his certificate, but that fignified little, he could now

live

live without trade. The young one is his nephew, who alſo began by being a merchant; his uncle advanced him the money, with which he eſtabliſhed a good credit in buſineſs, that, as ſoon as he had atchieved, he broke alſo, and with the proceeds is come to live at Bath, to try what he can do in the matrimonial way. Miſs Jenny Clodpole is greatly taken with Captain Bilkum; for, in imitation of the worthy Gibbet, he aſſumes that as a "good travelling name," while Mr. Nicholas, the Moravian preacher, takes Miſs Grizzle in hand; and of his inſtructions no doubt, in due time, the effects will be manifeſt. Nicholas is alſo a nephew of the old gentleman's, and was extremely ſerviceable to his couſin the Captain, by his friendly teſtimony before the Commiſſioners at Guildhall." "I think I remember ſomething of that," ſaid Hamilton;

milton; "was he not pillored?" "Oh yes; and the following Sunday preached at Mr. Coalheave's Tabernacle, on the text, 'Whom the Lord loveth he chafteneth.' The worthy fenior, to promote the views of the two no lefs worthy youths, attends to Mifs Deborah, who conceives him fmitten with her own charms. The Captain is a buck, and fwears bloodily, and ridicules Nicholas; while the preacher ferioufly and meekly reproves the unchriftian demeanour of the Captain, and fervently prays for his converfion. Of an evening they often meet at the houfe of a hofpitable lady (here Manchefter whifpered our hero). The gambler, and his friend the faint, are both extremely attentive to the young 'fquire as well as his fifters; the former gives him a leffon at unlimited loo, the latter on fubfcriptions for the good of the brethren. Next advanced

a party conſiſting of four: firſt, a gentleman in canonicals, with the priggiſh primneſs of a diſſenter, inſtead of the frank openneſs of a church divine. With him walked an old lady, arrayed in very tawdry finery; ſimpering and ſmiling, and endeavouring to aſſume the air and manner of a boarding-ſchool miſs; though really bearing more the appearance of having been a boarder in a very large houſe at the bottom of Moor-fields. Then followed a middle-aged man, with a very capacious mouth, and great grey goggling eyes, ſtaring and gaping, and having every mark of what the Scotch would call a *gilliegaapus* *. The partner of this accompliſhed perſon was a broad, fat, frouzy woman; bearing a rubicund face, plentifully ſtudded

* Not exactly a fool, but a gaping, ſtaring, ſtupid fellow.

 with

with carbuncles, whofe chin defcended in dewlaps, like thofe of a cow, which nearly approached another part of her perfon; that alfo, in fhape, pofition, and dependency, refembled the appurtenances of the fame animal. The firft remark of the reverend gentleman, was a conjecture concerning the ftate of the thermometer at Bath, while his lady made fome enquiries concerning the circulating library. The fat perfon meanwhile was liftening with admiration to the wifdom of the preacher; and regarding, with no lefs admiration, the figure and face of her elegant fpoufe, whofe eyes were turned to fome young ladies that appeared to have come from Queen-Anne-ftreet Eaft. Mr. Manchefter fortunately happened to know this party, and after flightly bowing to them, gave the following account to our travellers. " This is the Reverend Mr.

Nicknack,

Nicknack, one of the diffenting tribe of fpiritual teachers, remarkable for exactnefs in little things; he keeps a diary, in which is recorded every occurrence of his life. By referring to his valuable manufcript, he can inform you who called upon him, and upon whom he called, every hour of the day; and every day in the year 1740, and downwards: how he relifhed his breakfaft; whether his dinner was hot or cold, over or under roafted or boiled, during the fame period. He commenced his obfervations on the thermometer in the hard froft with which that year began, and knows its ftate and changes to the prefent moment. No lefs careful has he been in recording his ftate of health and perfon. I once had a fight of his diary, and remember the following paffage: 'Sunday, April 20th, 1746,(whifpering our hero,) 9 o'clock, breakfaft half paft nine—ex-

 cellent

cellent advice of Locke—coſtive this morning—twelve, delivered my firſt ſermon—difficult trial, ſtrain hard, and make it out—touch upon the victory of Culloden—greatly admired by my Lady Dunderhead and Mrs. Sarah Sapſcull—Robertſon of Gladſmuir preſent. I am told cenſures my ſermon—no judge—old ladies the beſt judges of compoſition, after all. It is ſaid Robertſon is about a hiſtory—dare ſay it will be ſad ſtuff.' Mr. Nicknack came to London, and made a very decent livelihood in the preaching line. Among his flock, he is a great advocate for *wills*; and, in viſiting the ſubſtantial ſick tradeſmen, never fails to remind them of their teſtament. Out of gratitude, they do not forget their counſellor; he, with modeſt humility, accepts the bequeſts; and, as he has a ſharp eye after fees, Nicknack has picked up a good deal of money. His

ſpouſe,

ſpouſe, both in her ſtate of maidenhood, and long after, even to the time of her marriage, had been known by the name of Margery Macgregor, and was nearly related to a worthy dowager of that name; long eminent for the virtue of hoſpitality, which ſhe exerciſed in an elegant and airy ſituation at the top of Henderſon's ſtairs. Dame, or, to uſe the Scottiſh phraſe, Lucky Macgregor, was remarkably pious, and her viſitors never failed to find her reading the bible. While ſhe recommended the care of her youthful gueſts to elect ladies, ſhe herſelf perſevered, like the Bereans of old, in ſearching the Scriptures. The exact relation between Lucky Macgregor and Miſs Margery, I really do not know; but I think it muſt have been near, as both in perſon and mind they ſtrictly reſembled each other. Miſs Margery was no leſs holy than the dowager, neverthe-

lefs fhe was a gay, fprightly lafs, with the true Secederian articles of faith and practice. If fhe was long unmarried, it was not for want of good will; often did fhe make the attempt, and often did fhe fail; but at laft fhe fucceeded. Having for many years fet her cap at man after man, fhe, in her forty-feventh fpring, became the fpoufe of Mr. Nick-nack. From that time fhe has taken to religion in its Calviniftic forms, doctrines, and adjuncts; is a zealous votary of free grace; and, both in theory and practice, teftifies her conviction of the efficacy of faith, without the trouble of works. Be-fides ftudying the gofpel, her favourite paftime is reading novels *. These oc-

* To elderly matrons, who in their youth had given way to fentimental fenfibility, ftories of love and gallantry are fadly fafcinating: they are, to ufe the language of Offian, *the memory of joys that are paft*, pleafing, yet melancholy to the foul.

cupations, with goſſipping and gadding, defamation, and what ſhe calls dreſs, pretty well employ her time. No doubt, her happy ſtate may partly ariſe from religion; not but that a cordial, known by the name of *gin*, contributes its aid. Mrs. Nicknack is no leſs dexterous than her huſband in fiſhing out preſents. She is a very zealous friend, and will ſtick at no aſſertion, true or untrue, in recommending the brethren; and ſometimes, indeed, ſhe has got into ſcrapes, by recommending that ſtupid dog behind: he is a near relation of hers, a fellow who undertakes to print, without being able to read. The old lady herſelf is a moſt furious democrat, *abuſes the king*, and one of the ableſt miniſters that the world ever beheld, the biſhops, and all conſtituted authorities. On that ſcore, ſhe might deſerve to be apprehended, were the ravings of an old woman

man of any consequence to the state. She has an innocent delight in demolishing reputations, and setting people by the ears: *she says she is a Christian.*" "If she be," said our hero, "her Christianity is not the Christianity of the Scriptures; at least, I do not recollect any passages of sacred writ that inculcate greed, gossipping, disloyalty, lying, and slandering, which appear to be the virtues which adorn this devotee of spiritual and *spirituous* comforts. But who is the relation behind her?" "her nephew, Malcolm Macandrew, a fellow who, with a very small portion of sense and knowledge, contrived to get a very great portion of notoriety. He was a poor orphan, bred up in an hospital at Edinburgh, taken out of charity to be apprentice to a printer, to whom his father had been servant: in return for this kind patronage, as soon as he was eighteen,

teen, he debauched his maſter's wife, and was ſaid to have joined her in embezzling effects. He afterwards ſeduced the ſiſter of one cuſtomer, and the daughter of another; and, finding his character notorious in the Scottiſh capital, he found it neceſſary to decamp: but, that he might leave none of the things undone which ought to have been done, he married two wives within a week of his departure; ſet off, and left the ſpouſes to conteſt precedency, and ſhift for themſelves. One of them dying for want, he eſcaped a proſecution for bigamy. He came to England, for reaſons beſt known to him. At length, his other wife being dead, he married a fat widow, that kept an ale-houſe, where he had run a ſcore, which he could not otherwiſe diſcharge. With this lovely partner, he got ſeveral hundred pounds, which afforded him for ſome time the

means of keeping a couple of miſtreſſes; and, after his money was gone, he picked up a little from his holy aunt; in return for his aſſiduity in fetching and carrying ſcandal for that pious couſin of Lucky Macgregor, collecting for her uſe ſpiritual hymns and amorous hiſtories, and miniſtering to her when ſhe happens to be overtaken with liquor. This worthy relation is thoroughly acquainted with his hiſtory and converſation; but, in the piety of her friendſhip, *bears frequent teſtimony* that he is poſſeſſed of ability, honour, integrity, and every other meritorious qualification. The fellow was beginning to pick up buſineſs in London from people that knew nothing of his character, or attended to the atteſtations of that good Chriſtian Mrs. Nicknack; but, by a combination of raſcality and ingratitude, guided by ignorance and folly, he provoked an able and willing

ſatiriſt,

ſat'riſt, who will not ſpare him; ſo that Malcolm Macandrew will come to be as notorious in London as he was in the north, when obliged to leave Edinburgh for his profligacy."

Mancheſter having for ſome time amuſed them with theſe and other anecdotes of perſons whom he happened to recognize, they departed for the evening. Our travellers continued ſeveral days at Bath; and, after ſeeing every thing that was remarkable, ſet off towards London. Having breakfaſted at Chipenham, as they were proceeding on to Marlborough, they, at Cherril Downs, alighted to take a view of the white horſe, which they had ſeen at ſo great a diſtance. After viewing with admiration its ſhape and proportions, as they were croſſing to a different part of the eminence, which appeared to promiſe an extenſive and charming proſpect, they found a woman, decently

decently dreſſed, but with evident marks of deep dejection, ſitting in an hollow. A pale and diſconſolate countenance did not prevent her from exhibiting the mien and expreſſion of a gentlewoman. Our hero accoſted her with a tone and expreſſions of ſoothing compaſſion, enquired whether he could be of any ſervice to a lady, who evidently laboured under ſome great diſtreſs. "Oh, ſir," ſhe ſaid, "it is not in your power to relieve my afflictions." She ſaid no more, but burſt into tears, which terminated in a fit. The ladies, by ſmelling bottles, endeavoured to reſtore her perception and conſciouſneſs, and at length ſucceeded. Moved by their kindneſs and tenderneſs, ſhe, in a low voice, expreſſed her gratitude: "Charming ladies," ſhe ſaid, "you are beſtowing your goodneſs on a wretch unworthy to live! leave me to my fate; I wiſh by death

death to terminate an exiſtence, miſe-rable from the moſt irremediable cauſe, a wounded conſcience." "What-ever," ſaid our hero, "madam, may be the ſource of your ſufferings, I truſt they admit of alleviation, which my wife and my ſiſter will join me in adminiſtering to the utmoſt of our power. Let us con-duct you to Marlborough, and perhaps there you may favour us with ſo much confidence and information, as may ena-ble us to deviſe ſome mode of effectual relief." The lady was long inflexible; but at length yielded to their generous urgency. Our hero handed her into the chaiſe, which he ordered to drive gently, while he walked by its ſide. Having ar-rived at Marlborough, and dined, the ſoothing attention of the travellers wrought ſo much upon the ſtranger, that ſhe could no longer refuſe their intreaties to give them ſuch outlines of her ſtory

as ſhe could bear to recite. " From your appearance and goodneſs, I am confident that I may rely upon your honour that, whatever you may diſcover, you will not divulge." After this preface, ſhe proceeded as will be found in the following chapter.

CHAP-

CHAPTER III.

Fifteen years ago I was married to a very amiable and worthy man, and highly eſteemed and reſpected. Heaven can witneſs I long loved him dearly, and ſtill regard him as much as ever! During the firſt ten years of our union, although we ſpent the winter in town, and mingled with people of our own rank, our pleaſures were principally domeſtic; our parties were ſelect and elegant, and not indiſcriminate and numerous. We occaſionally attended at operas, routs, and other faſhionable amuſements; but did not place our chief enjoyment, in ſuch ſcenes of glare, noiſe, and inſipidity; for inſipid I then thought them. Would to

Heaven

Heaven my ſentiments had always continued the ſame! About ſix years ago, in an evil day, I became acquainted with the Counteſs of Cheatwell. Her ladyſhip's manners are very inſinuating towards thoſe whom ſhe wiſhes to win. Our acquaintance commenced at Buxton, where, ſhe declared, the retirement of the place was much more agreeable to her than the gaieties of Brighton, or even Bath itſelf; and that though ſhe was obliged, on account of ſome friends and connections, to be frequently in great and numerous parties, for her own part, her chief delight was ſelections of friends, ſociable and rational converſation. She had heard, ſhe ſaid, of our wiſe mode of enjoying ſociety, and was eager to be able, by detaching herſelf from many of her preſent acquaintances, to imitate ſo laudable an example: in ſhort, ſhe won my friendſhip and confi-

dence.

dence. The following winter we often visited. She confessed to me, it was impossible at once to leave off her former acquaintances; and appealed to me if it would not be better to effect her intended change gradually, and so ultimately please herself without disgusting those, to gratify whom she had sometimes engaged in amusements, of which SHE HERSELF TOTALLY DISAPPROVED. Her plan I thought perfectly reasonable; but warned her against contracting a fondness for such pursuits. 'Believe me,' said the countess, 'there is no danger of that: the more I see of gaming and its consequences, the more do I hold it in detestation, and the more firmly am I resolved to *keep out* of its destructive vortex. Indeed, I know of no more effectual means of producing an abhorrence of that vice, *than by frequenting scenes in which it is practised.* On a weak mind,

to be ſure, they may have a contrary tendency; but, on a vigorous underſtanding, with a firm, ſelf-poſſeſſing heart, their effects are moſt certainly beneficial. You yourſelf, my dear, whoſe mind ſurpaſſes in ſtrength that of moſt ladies, by occaſionally witneſſing ſuch faſhionable amuſements, (as they are called, very improperly, I admit,) would be, if poſſible, more riveted in your averſion.' In the courſe of our intimacy, I was prevailed on to be preſent at ſome of her ladyſhip's routs; and, though ſhe and I in private concurred in expreſſing our reprobation of gaming, I did not find my averſion by any means increaſe, and was indeed ſo delighted with her *ladyſhip's own particular friends*, whoſe manners were extremely engaging; and with the exquiſite muſic, *and other parts of her entertainments, in which nothing was neglected to gratify the taſte, and enchant the fancy,*

fancy, that I inſenſibly became paſſionately fond of ſuch parties. I even began to *try my town fortune* at amuſements, which appeared to me ſo much to engage the earneſt attention of my new acquaintances. Lady Cheatwell, in very friendly terms, adviſed me to refrain; but, when ſhe found me determined to perſevere, ſaid, ſhe would commit my tuition to *her own particular friends, who would take care to guard me againſt impoſition*, which, as ſhe obſerved, is too frequently employed on ſuch occaſions. Indeed, they taught me ſo well, that I was very ſucceſsful; and had in a ſhort time, at my command, a much greater ſum than ever I had in my poſſeſſion from my huſband. Although our fortune was conſiderable, yet he was economical; a diſpoſition I acquieſced in as prudent, as we had ſeveral children, all of whom were daughters; and a great

 part

MAHARAJA SERFOGI'S SARA

part of the eſtate, with the title, would go to the heir-male. Having now plenty of money, I indulged in various expences, which I ſhould not have before thought of. I propoſed to my huſband to imitate ſome others of our own rank, by giving ſplendid routs, balls, and maſquerades: and, truſting to my *own ſtores*, I aſſured him that the expence would not be heavy. My huſband, who was very much under my influence, agreed, though I believe not altogether conſiſtently with his own judgment and wiſh. At this rate we went on during the winter. I was often at Lady Cheatwell's *petits ſoupers*, where I began to think the company really enchanting. So eaſy, good humoured, agreeable, and engaging were the ladies; ſo ſoft, ſo *inſinuating*, ſo winning were the gentlemen; that I thought I was in a much more delightful ſociety than I had

had ever witneſſed. I was not, however, without ſome croſſes; the expences of our entertainments, when the bills came in, turned out to be infinitely greater than we had anticipated; my own good fortune began to change: towards the end of the ſeaſon, I found that I was, on the whole, a loſer to the amount of fifteen hundred pounds; ſo that I was by no means in a condition to aſſiſt, as I once had propoſed, in defraying *the extraordinaries* of our winter campaign. At this time, a note from a lady of faſhion reminded me of a debt incurred at hazard for twelve hundred pounds, which ſhe requeſted I ſhould have the goodneſs to pay immediately, as ſhe was herſelf much diſtreſſed for one of the ſame kind. I conſidered my own winnings in reverſion as a certain reſource for my *debts of honour*; and luckily, as I thought, that evening there

was to be an aſſembly at Lady Cheatwell's, where the play would be deep. Thither I accordingly went at the appointed hour; and ſoon going to pharo, was for ſome time ſucceſsful with a young nobleman, an intimate friend of Lady Cheatwell, of all our parties, and whom I greatly admired for the elegance of his manners, and gracefulneſs of his figure. Encouraged by my ſucceſs, I propoſed very high ſtakes; but, after many viciſſitudes, found myſelf three thouſand pounds in debt; and went home in deep deſpair. The next morning, I had a viſit from my antagoniſt; who, from the diſtreſs in which he ſaw me, conceiving the real ſtate of the caſe, begged me not to be uneaſy on his account, and, taking out his pocket-book, preſented me with my own note to him cancelled, and alſo with a receipt from the fair applicant of the preceding day.

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He had, it ſeems, heard of the circumſtance, and ſettled the account in half an hour after. I confeſs I was charmed with this youth's behaviour, and I am afraid not the leſs from the uncommon fineneſs of his face and perſon, and evident attachment to myſelf. My opinions had become leſs auſtere, from my intimacy with Lady Cheatwell and her coterie. They perſuaded me, that a married lady might have a *ſentimental affection* for another man, without interfering with her duty to her huſband; and ſpoke much in favour of *Platonic love.* Before we went out of town, I became fonder and fonder of this generous man; and not the leſs ſo, as I found my huſband much out of humour on account of the expences we had incurred. I felt a reluctance at the thoughts of going to the country, the greater as I found my huſband had conceived a very bad opinion of

of my ſentimental friend, ſo that it would be impoſſible for him to viſit me at our country ſeat, as we had projected. Two evenings before we were to leave town, I was invited to ſup with Mrs. Cogdie and her charming daughter Biddy, Miſs's ſentimental friend, *a married gentleman* I had often ſeen, Lady Cheatwell, my admirer, O'Blackleg, and one or two more of the peculiar intimates of our ſet. A more exquiſite and enchanting party, I thought, I had never been in! The converſation was all intereſt, all ſentiment, all love. My Lady Cheatwell delivered her opinion on marriage and its duties, in a way I once ſhould have diſapproved; but was then quite faſcinated. By ſome means or other, ſmall and ſelect as our party was, it was thought expedient to divide it into ſmaller ſets. Pairs filed off together (as I ſince have known it to be *the cuſtom* of that man-

ſion),

ſion). I was left alone with my charming youth; and—(*ſhe ſobbed out*)—we ceaſed to be Platoniſts! My gallant contrived to paſs a good part of the ſummer in diſguiſe, near our country-ſeat; and I became daily fonder and fonder of him. We frequently indulged in gaming, and I was much oftener a loſer than a winner. One day, after he had ſpent about a fortnight at Bath, he returned with a melancholy countenance. I was extremely alarmed, and endeavoured to diſcover the cauſe. He long refuſed to inform me; but at length acknowledged he had been ſtripped of all his money, and contracted a very large debt, which he had no means of paying, as he entirely depended on his father, who would be very much incenſed were he to hear of his folly, as he neceſſarily muſt, from his inability to diſcharge the debt himſelf. I myſelf owed my lover more

more than four thousand pounds: for which he had taken, as he said, merely as a matter of form, my notes at different times. I prayed him to endeavour to raise money on them; and that, by the time they were payable, I should be in town, and have an opportunity of disposing of my jewels, and getting Dovey's paste; as usual with my Lady Cheatwell's friends, and other ladies of fashion, when they have great debts to pay, for either losses at play, the emergencies of their gallants, or any other extravagance. After much reluctance, he consented; and we abandoned ourselves to our passion as before; but managed with such secrecy, that I was totally unsuspected. In a few weeks, my lover told me he was obliged to be absent for a month on a family party, at his father's, in a county two hundred miles from our mansion. The month appeared an age to me; but,

when

when it was finiſhed, he did not return: a week, and another paſſed away; ſtill I ſaw or heard nothing of him. It was now the middle of November, when a ſervant announced a gentleman from Lady Cheatwell, who wanted to ſee me. I deſired him to be ſhewn into my dreſſing-room; and I found the gentleman was Mr. Patrick O'Blackleg. He had, he ſaid, made uſe of Lady Cheatwell's name, to obtain admittance on a buſineſs which he explained in a few words. He had procured money to my lover on my notes, and was engaged for their punctual payment; and, from what my lover had ſaid, truſted to the diſpoſal of my jewels for caſh, for that purpoſe. He gave me alſo to underſtand, to my great ſurpriſe, mortification, and affliction, that my gallant had eloped with another married lady, and was gone to the Continent. To add to my ſhame

and affliction, I could perceive that O'Blackleg thoroughly knew the footing on which the nobleman and I had been. On coming to town for the winter, O'Blackleg paid me very close attention, and found means to raise money upon my jewels; and, in short, so ingratiated himself in my favour, that he succeeded as my lover. I was now a confidential member of the gaming society at Lady Cheatwell's and her friends; and could tell you of many instances both of *married and unmarried women, who have been seduced into profligacy, from the morals of the gaming circles, and the difficulties from gaming losses*; but I do not propose to mitigate my own unworthiness by pleading the example of others.

Vain is the idea of long persistence in vice without discovery. The change of female conduct from rectitude to profligacy generally affects the outward man-

ners; and I apprehend mine muſt have undergone an alteration. Beſides, the company that I now kept were not favourable to fame. My reputation ſuffered; and the reports of my infidelity at length reached the ears of my huſband. In the grief of ſo ill requited love, he wrote me a letter, containing no reproaches, but more rending to the heart than the moſt opprobrious charges. He ſimply deſired me to review his conduct in every circumſtance and relation towards me and our children, and to aſk myſelf whether he had ever given me reaſon to inflict ſo grievous an injury on my huſband and my daughters. He was, however, convinced, that my deviation had been cauſed by the depraving company into which I had lately fallen, and that I was ſtill retrievable: though he could not promiſe immediately to live in the ſame houſe with

me, yet he wifhed, for my own fake and our offspring, and my noble-minded brother, that my reputation might ftill be preferved; he would retire for fome years to the Continent; I fhould occupy the country-houfe, and totally break off acquaintance with thofe fafhionable connexions, which had effected fuch an evil to him and to myfelf. There he hoped my own deportment would be fuch as would juftify and invite his fpeedy return. A reproof fo mild, but yet fo poignant; forgivenefs fo generous and fo humiliating, aggravated my fhame, compunction, and remorfe. For feveral hours thefe moft painful fentiments were fo predominant, as to overpower every other, and to prevent me from forming any refolution concerning the acceptance of the proffered pardon: But, rereading the letter, I perceived, what had at the firft perufal efcaped my obferva-

tion,

tion, that my hufband prefumed my guilt not to be made public. This fuppofition I well knew was unfortunately without grounds; my profligate paramour had blazoned my difgrace. To have carried confcious, though concealed guilt into a houfe where innocent virtue had always reigned, would have been extremely grating; but to carry public infamy into the houfe of fo honourable a mafter—here fhe fobbed, and for fome time was unable to proceed; but at length recovering, and affuming a firmer tone, no, I was not fo much loft to ingenuous feeling as that. Revolving on the miferable condition into which I was reduced by my own conduct, I came to a determination to fecrete myfelf for ever from my brother, children, and hufband, all of whom I ftill moft fervently love. My few remaining jewels I fent fealed to my

hufband's banker; money I have none, but raifed a hundred pounds by the dif-pofal of fome lefs valuable effects. I intended to retire to the weft of England, in queft of an old fervant of my mother's, whom I knew to be honeft and faithful, and to conceal myfelf with her until death fhould relieve my fufferings, which I hoped, from my declining health, might fpeedily be the cafe. To conceal my rout I took a circuitous courfe, and fometimes walked from a poft-town two or three miles, and fat down to await the arrival of fome periodical or chance vehicle. The perfon whom I fought is the wife of a fmall farmer, near Cherril. Having walked this morning from Chipenham, I was overtaken by a return-chaife, which carried me to the Downs; leaving the carriage I ftruck to the right in queft of the hamlet, which I knew to be within two miles of

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the White Horſe. As I purſued my ſolitary courſe a fellow ſtarted up from an hollow, who with a very ſhort preface began to make propoſals, that loſt as I was I received with the indignation they deſerved. As he became urgent I ſwooned away. When I returned to life I found the ruffian waiting my recovery, as he avowed his determination to perpetrate his purpoſe; looking about he ſuddenly ran off. Perceiving a chaiſe at ſome diſtance I accounted for his departure. I now found out that my pockets were rifled, and that I had not a ſingle ſhilling left in the world. My ſtrength quite exhauſted, I was totally unequal to the ſhort diſtance that I had to ſurmount; and now that my little ſtore was plundered, I was reluctant to ſeek the intended aſylum: to burden the ſcanty ſubſiſtence of hard earning induſtry, with the maintenance of

of inefficient idlenefs. I felt myfelf an outcaft from fociety. My defolate fituation, a wounded confcience, readily brought me home to myfelf. I wifhed to terminate my fufferings by death. Such were the feelings of a guilty mind in extreme mifery, when your generous intervention enabled me to exercife cooler reflection.

Our travellers were much affected by the lady's narrative; Hamilton ufed his eloquence to confole her, and to perfuade her that the circumftances which fhe mentioned, and the contrition which fhe difplayed, evinced fuch a mind as when reftored to its place in fociety, would firft compenfate, and finally obliterate the unhappy effects of artful and pernicious companions, in fufpending rectitude of principle, and perverting juftnefs and vigour of underftanding. "I am convinced," he faid, "that ftill

your

your husband, whose character your account and his letter so clearly elucidate, will be deeply grieved at your disappearance, and would with joyful delight adhere to his proposal. Will you, madam, suffer me to apply to any of your friends who might be entrusted with the important charge of mediating between you and your brother, and husband?" "Ah, no, sir, I wish to be for ever hidden from their eyes, I could not bear to see their faces turned on me with unmerited kindness, they are both men of the highest merit; my husband engaged in the exercise of private and domestic virtues, has it is true not signalized himself in public efforts; my brother, hardly five-and-twenty, is already the admiration of the senate. Alas! poor Edward, with the highest accomplishments of person and mind, he was unhappy before his sister's disgrace could

could reach his ears. Hamden lamented the disappointment of virtuous love; here his susceptible heart must feel rage and indignation for the vice and degeneracy of his sister." At the name of Hamden, Maria and her husband were aroused; and the latter, with some impatience waiting till the conclusion of the sentence, eagerly asked, are you, madam, the sister of Sir Edward Hamden, my most intimate and admired friend? "Good Heavens!" replied the lady, "are you that Mr. Hamilton that saved my brother's life; and is this the lady that was Miss Mortimer? But I need not ask. The description and circumstances render the question quite superfluous." Hamilton hastily answering it was as she supposed, and proceeded to inform her, that he had now a clue to guide him in promoting her comfort and peace of mind.

"Hamden,"

"Hamden," ſaid he, "has a liberality of ſoul equal to the extent of his underſtanding, and in eſtimating every act, or ſeries of acts, makes allowance for the circumſtance and ſituations." "But what liberality or candour," replied ſhe, "can palliate ſuch infidelity as mine, againſt ſuch a huſband." Here ſhe again fell into a paroxyſm of paſſion, and our hero reſolved to forbear the renewal of the ſubject until ſhe was more compoſed. Meanwhile they agreed to paſs the evening in their preſent quarters, and to view this ancient and venerable town*, that gave its title to one of the greateſt

* Marlborough was anciently called Cunetio, ſituated on the ſide of the river Kennet; its preſent name was probably derived from the word marle, or chalk, with which the neighbouring hills abound. Its hiſtory under the Saxons is unknown. It conſiſts principally of one broad ſtreet, and one other from the bridge to the town-hall. It is a corporation.

greateſt heroes that ever graced the annals of England. The lady not chuſing to accompany them, was prevailed on to try the effects of repoſe, in order to tranquillize her agitated ſpirits. Having viewed the town and environs, they returned to their place of ſojourning for the night. Our hero communicated to

ration, with a mayor, aldermen, burgeſſes, and town-clerk: it ſends two members to parliament, and has a weekly market on Saturday. John, ſurnamed Lackland, (afterwards king,) had a caſtle here, which, on his revolt from his brother Richard I. was ſtormed by Hubert, archbiſhop of Canterbury. In this caſtle was held the aſſembly of the ſtates of the kingdom, who paſſed the famous law for ſuppreſſing riots, commonly called, The Statutes of Marlborough. In Camden's time it was become a heap of ruins, with only a few fragments of walls remaining within the ditch. A manſion was built on the ſpot by the Earl of Hertford, which, for fifty years, had been let as an inn, called the caſtle: the keep was converted into a mount, for a ſummer-houſe in the garden.

his wife and fifter a project he had formed of applying to his friend Sir Edward Hamden, and explaining the circumftances of his fifter Mrs. Raymond's cafe and fentiments; convinced that he would be able to effect an impreffion in her favour. Meanwhile he intended to offer her a fecret afylum in or near London, and requefted the ladies to join in endeavouring to perfuade her to accompany them to London, without particularizing the fcheme in her favour which he had in agitation. Mrs. Raymond long refifted their application, and declared her refolution never to receive from her hufband or brother, kindnefs, every title to which fhe faid fhe had entirely forfeited. Without profeffing to confute her reafoning, or oppofe her determination, they endeavoured to reconcile her in fome degree to herfelf. In the courfe of their conver-

verfation

verfation they found that fhe had a ftrong and lively fenfe of religion, although its practical operation had in her late conduct been fo fatally fufpended. To this principle they addreffed themfelves, and powerfully inculcated the meritorioufnefs and efficacy of the penitence which fhe fo clearly evinced, that it would certainly conciliate every candid and chriftian reviewer. They appealed to her felf-eftimation, and tried to imprefs on her the merit that attached to the energetic effort of reftored virtue, and without diminifhing that fhame which follows unhackneyed vice, or foftening the calls of confcience, they perfuaded her that future performance of her religious and moral duties would heal the wounded fpirit, and regain the efteem and approbation of the worthy. Grateful for their goodnefs, rather than convinced by their reafoning, fhe

yielded

yielded to their inſtances more than their arguments, and agreed to accompany them to London ; and a poſt-coach was beſpoken for the morning. After an early breakfaſt they ſet off through the foreſt, which not exceeding twelve miles in circumference, and containing a moſt delightful ſeat, Hamilton perſuaded them to view. Marlborough foreſt belongs to the Earl of Aileſbury, and is almoſt the only privileged ground of that denomination poſſeſſed by a ſubject. It is in circumference about twelve miles, plentifully ſtocked with deer of a large ſize, and rendered very pleaſant and delightful, by the many walks and viſtas cut and levelled through the ſeveral coppices and woods, with which it abounds. Eight of theſe viſtas meet in a point near the middle of the foreſt, where a late lord prepared and cleared the ground for erecting an octagon tower,

tower, whofe fides were to be correfpond-ent to the viftas; through one of which we have a view of the feat, at about two miles diftance, called Tottenham, from a park of that name, in which it is fituated, contiguous to the foreft. It is a ftately edifice, erected on the fame fpot of ground where ftood an ancient palace, deftroyed by fire, of the Marquis of Hertford, afterwards Duke of Somerfet, fo juftly celebrated for his fteady adherence, and powerful affiftance to the royal caufe, during the whole courfe of the civil wars; from whom the Earl of Ailefbury was defcended. The prefent edifice was begun, carried on, and finifhed after the model, and under the direction of our modern Vitruvius, the late Earl of Burlington, who, to the ftrength and convenience of the Englifh architecture, has added the elegance of Italian tafte. The houfe has four towers,

and

and four fronts, each of them diverſely beautified and adorned; to which are now added four wings, wherein are rooms of ſtate, a noble and capacious room for a library, containing a judicious and large collection of ſeveral thouſand books, in all languages, but eſpecially the modern. The beauty of the buildings is much augmented by the large canals, the ſpacious and well planted walks which ſurround it; one of which, leading to the London road, extends two miles in length. About the ſame diſtance from hence, on the oppoſite ſide, are to be ſeen the remains of a large houſe, called Wolf-hall, the ſeat of Sir John Seymour, father of the unfortunate protector, of which no more is ſtanding than ſuffices for a farm houſe. Here King Henry VIII. as tradition goes, celebrated his nuptials with Lady Jane Seymour, and kept his wedding dinner

in a very large barn, hung with tapeſtry, on the occaſion; for confirmation of which they ſhew you in the walls ſome tenter-hooks, with ſmall pieces of tapeſtry faſtened to them: and between this place and Tottenham there is a walk, with old trees on each ſide, ſtill known by the name of King Henry's walk. Wolf-hall was anciently the ſeat of St. Maurs, or Seymours, who, from the time of Henry II. were hereditary bailiffs and wardens of the foreſt of Savernac, in memory of which a large hunting horn, ornamented with ſilver, is ſtill preſerved by the preſent noble owner, the Earl of Aileſbury, together with a beautiful pedigree of the family, from William the Conqueror. They proceeded through the charming confines of Wiltſhire and Berkſhire, and arrived at the caſtle at Speenhamland, where they dined, and in the evening

they

they proceeded to Reading*, and the following day arriving in London, completed their excursion.

* Reading is the moſt conſiderable trading town in the county, and contains three pariſh churches, about two thouſand houſes, and nine thouſand four hundred and twenty inhabitants. Some years ſince, an act of parliament was obtained to new pave the ſtreets, an improvement which was much wanted; and a new market has been built on the weſt ſide of the market-place, for the accommodation of butchers, poulterers, &c. in the moſt convenient manner, and firſt opened for public uſe in December, 1800. The Kennet, in paſſing through the town, beſides the main ſtream, which is navigable for barges, throws off two branches, on which there are ſome conſiderable flour-mills.

CHAPTER IV.

THE day after our hero's return to London, he went in queft of Sir Edward Hamden, and had the pleafure to learn that he was in town. Hearing at what hour he was to be at home, he returned to his houfe, and had an interview. Sir Edward told him, that his chief object in vifiting the metropolis, at fuch a feafon, was to folicit the advice and affiftance of his friend Hamilton. He had only arrived the day before, and finding Hamilton was out of town, had refolved to remain a few days, in hopes of his return. The fubject on which he wifhed to confult him, he faid, was of the moft delicate nature, and filled him

him with great anxiety and diſtreſs. He then opened to his friend the fall of his unhappy ſiſter, and among many circumſtances, which Hamilton well knew before, mentioned that Raymond was ſo paſſionately attached to his wife, that notwithſtanding all that happened, he was diſpoſed to forgiveneſs, and to impute her miſconduct to his own want of caution, in not preventing an intimacy between her and a notorious directreſs of gambling fraud. "Indeed I ſo far agree with him, that poor Caroline owes her ruin to the baneful example of this unprincipled banditti. Every woman that defrauds at gaming will and muſt be wicked in any other way that temptation may happen to prompt; and ſhe who cheats at cards to gratify her avarice, will, if opportunity offer, and fear do not reſtrain, make as free with her chaſtity as with her honeſty." "I

hope, Sir Edward, for the honour of female continence, that your theory is erroneous; becaufe, if true, it would make fo many now of fair character no better than proftitutes." "Nay, there are degrees in both, and I fhould reafon by analogy; there are many who would fineffe or fhuffle, or pack at cards, who would not venture to ufe loaded dice. Thefe I fhould conclude might intrigue with a friend, without publicly expofing their reputation; but mine is more than theory, I never yet met a lady who cheated at cards, but would have done fomething elfe, except old women that have paffed thefe kinds of amufements. But to return to our fubject. Raymond is very defirous of beftowing forgivenefs on his mifguided wife; he, however, cannot bring himfelf immediately to live with her. He propofes going for fome time to the continent, and that fhe fhould

retire

retire to the country, but an obſtacle for the preſent has ariſen, the unhappy woman has eloped, and we in vain have endeavoured to diſcover her retreat. It is for that purpoſe I wiſh your advice and aſſiſtance." While the baronet was about to explain in what way Hamilton could render ſervice, our hero interrupted him, and informed him of all that had happened upon the road, and very ſtrongly teſtified the penitence of Mrs. Raymond. He could not prevail on Hamden immediately to ſee her; nevertheleſs the propoſed arrangement was ſoon concluded, and the repentant ſinner repaired to her aſylum.

After the completion of this buſineſs, Hamilton returned with increaſed vigour to his literary purſuits. The lives of men of letters, though often inſtructive in operation, progreſs, and reſult, are commonly barren in incident: while he

was preparing the firft part of his grand effay for the public, no private occurrences happened of fufficient importance to conftitute a part of our narrative. One benefit he found, an author of fenfe may derive from writing on a continuous fubject, within the reach of his abilities, and the range of his knowledge; while he attempts to inform and inftruct others, he informs and inftructs himfelf. The tafk which he undertook happened to require refearch and inveftigation, as well as deduction and exhibition, and improved his own knowledge and power of reafoning, whilft he endeavoured to communicate knowledge and inftruction to others. At length the work made its public appearance, and eftablifhed the literary character of its author. It demonftrated to the public the force and extent of his talents, the accuracy and range of his knowledge, the depth of his philofophy,

philosophy, which though yet more theoretical in several doctrines and opinions, than is consistent with fact and practice, manifested on the whole, that strength of discrimination, completeness of comprehension, boldness of conception, and fertility of invention, which when matured by experience, becomes soaring genius, guided by beneficial wisdom. The arrangement evinced a mind that at once perceived the relations and dependencies of parts, and grasped the whole. The language to the essential qualities of clearness, strength, and expressiveness, added the agreeable accompaniments of elegance and harmony. Fame and emolument did not fail to follow distinguished merit, arising from exertions on a subject which had been judiciously chosen, with a view at once to temporary popularity and permanent importance. With the public voice con-

curred those private individuals, whose opinions he chiefly regarded. A Robertson and a Gibbon, a Watson, a Fergusson, and a Burke, spoke its praises, while jackalls only of jacobinism barked disapprobation. A Strongbrain bore his testimony to the excellence of the production with discriminate applause; while detractors and envy attested the same truth in the obloquy of the dunces, the impotent babbling of the enraged and contemptible Doctor Dicky Scribble. Scribble lost a good deal of his own time in going from coffeehouse to coffeehouse, to abuse Hamilton's production, and in the same period might have manufactured two or three books, by his usual drudgery. Hamilton enjoyed the feeling so pleasing to an author, in the assurance that his literary fame was established. Most of the reviews bore high testimony to the merits of Hamilton's work; two, indeed,

censured

censured it, one the property of a bookseller, who was bringing out a publication on the same subject; and another that was supported by a club of democratic dissenters; but many of the contributors having either gone, or *been sent* to parts beyond seas, and Tom Paine and Thelwal being less in vogue, it has since been crushed. The jacobins, both French and English, reviled the book for its political principles, nevertheless they could not avoid allowing it literary excellence.

About this time Hamilton observed that Charlotte was often pensive, and even to dejection. Making this observation to Maria, she told him she conjectured the reason to be the absence and silence of John Mortimer. The fact was, Mortimer was a very aspiring, ambitious young man, and having in France rendered essential service to the

Britifh government, efpecially by developing fchemes of political miffionaries for the propagation of revolutionary principles, he had become a great favourite with the Britifh ambaffador, and was not without hopes of a feat in parliament. He had been captivated by the charms of Mifs Hamilton, but he was not fo deeply enamoured that ambition did not give him a contrary pull. He was a very handfome fellow, and much admired among the French ladies, in whom political regeneration had not produced moral: he was greatly addicted to gallantry, and nothing is more deftructive of virtuous love than habitual diffipation when at a diftance from the beloved object.

Louifa Primrofe had been extremely affected by the marriage of Hamilton, and her mother, to amufe her by change of fcene, took a trip to the continent.

At Paris ſhe frequently met with young Mortimer; by degrees became much more chearful; and at laſt was extremely fond of his company. Mortimer thought her a fine girl, though not equal to Charlotte, and he knew ſhe had ſuch a fortune as could raiſe him to the height that he wiſhed; but though a man of the world, Mortimer was alſo a man of honour, and therefore reſolved to adhere to his promiſes to Charlotte, unleſs re-leaſed by herſelf. He therefore very fairly ſtated to her his ſituation in a letter. Dignity, pride, and every elevated ſenti-ment combined in determining her to grant the releaſe that he appeared to de-ſire, and ſhe did it without any reproach, or a ſingle expreſſion that could indicate either regret or diſpleaſure. Her mag-nanimity, however, was extremely pain-ful to herſelf, and was the ſource of the diſconſolation that her friends remarked;

but

but ſhe would not communicate either her ſentiments or their cauſe; a vigorous underſtanding, and firmneſs of mind, by degrees enabled her to regain her chearfulneſs. Mortimer in the courſe of the winter married Miſs Primroſe and her five thouſand a year.

Our hero ſtuck very cloſe to his literary and juridical purſuits. He kept very little company of a Sunday; Sir Edward Hamden generally ſpent the day at his houſe, or he at Sir Edward's. Often they prevailed on Strongbrain to be one of the company, and well as they knew him, he at every viſit aſtoniſhed them by the graſp of his genius. They all were friendly to the French revolution, though in different degrees. Hamilton, who beſides being a literary man by profeſſion was young, regarded what he conſidered the triumph of liberty with exultation, and was pleaſed with a

ſtate

ſtate of things in which he apprehended that intellect was obtaining its native ſuperiority, and trampling every diſtinction but wiſdom and virtue. Hamden, with all his perſonal merit, not without a ſenſe of rank and birth, was inimical to the deſtruction of privileged orders. Strongbrain thought the revolution too violent to ſuit the gradual variations of the human character, and too democratical to ſuit the mad volatility of the French. Hamilton obſerved, that a very rapid change now took place in the political ſentiments of the country, and with the action and re-action of the preſs, affected our literature; that though one of its chief objects was innovation in the church and ſtate, its influence extended much farther; and that not only in inſtitutions, but manners, principles, ſentiments, thoughts, and even the powers of nature, the great object was innovation.

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He traced this ſpirit of boundleſs change from its firſt origin, in that ſuperſtition and deſpotiſm which genius diſcovered; but obſerved, that in avoiding great evils it ran into much greater. He reviewed the efforts of Rouſſeau, Voltaire, and Helvetius, and the various concurring cauſes of the French revolution, and marked the progreſs in other parts of Europe, but eſpecially in England, of the innovating ſpirit which it was now calling into action, and attended peculiarly to the literature which it excited. He admired the genius of Prieſtly and Price; and though he diſapproved of their enmity to the eſtabliſhment, yet he revered their high ſpirit of liberty; and if he queſtioned their prudence, he gave them full credit for ſincerity. Though a friend to the church his regard to it was rather political than religious; if he venerated

ſome,

fome, and refpected many of its members, it was for individual qualities, and not official fituation. He profoundly admired Watfon, without doing homage to the Bifhop of Landaff. He highly eftimated the force and fcience of a Horfeley, without adopting in every cafe the authority of the hierarch. In the claffical elegance of a Douglas, the critical acutenefs of a Hurd, and the chriftian fimplicity of a Porteous, he valued the men, and not fimply the mitre. He himfelf was rather attached to literary diffenters, whom he conceived to be zealous promoters of that liberty which Cambridge had taught him to prize. Deeply converfant in philofophy, and thoroughly acquainted with the laws and practice of reafoning, he was extremely faftidious in matters of authority, and in affaying an opinion paid little regard to its currency. If he erred it was from mifinfor-

misinformation of fact, and not feebleness of investigation, or falsity of principle. Conceiving that political freedom was necessary to the best exertions of men; and that the French had long been the victims of civil and ecclesiastical tyranny, he rejoiced at what he thought their emancipation. He admitted that some of their proceedings were extremely violent, but imputed the outrages to a ferment of enthusiasm, which would gradually subside into rational freedom. As many of the wars of the French monarchs had arisen from the ambition of the court, he hoped that when that cause was removed no other would operate in hostility to his country. Somewhat tinged with the doctrines of the œconomique philosophers, he thought the human race susceptible of much greater perfection than it had hitherto attained, and in the refinement of speculation conceived

ceived ſuch intellectual and moral improvement might reſult from the diſſemination of liberty, as would prevent the frequent recurrence of wars. Though he diſapproved of Price's exultation over the fallen monarch, as indiſcreet and liable to miſconſtruction, yet he himſelf derived it from a liberal ſpirit and comprehenſive benevolence; which regarding an individual on the one hand, and twenty-five millions of individuals on the other, preferred the happineſs which he conceived to be attained by the many to the power which he ſaw to be wreſted from the one. He therefore approved of the motives and ſpirit of Price, without implicitly aſſenting to his poſitions. Such was the ſtate of his political ſentiments when Burke produced his extraordinary work. Captivated by the poetry, and charmed by the eloquence of this wonderful production, he in his

firſt

firſt reading hurried through it without waiting to examine its reaſoning and philoſophy. Like the magic pen of Shakeſpeare this performance, whitherſoever it expatiated, carried with it his fancy and paſſions. He ſaw Engliſh votaries of the French revolution, in one page terrible, in the next contemptible, and in the third diſguſting, now as tigers panting after ſlaughter and carnage, now as graſhoppers teaſing with their importunate chink; then a loathſome object full of blotches and putrified ſores. Here he regarded chivalry as the great parent of ſocial happineſs, lamented its age as for ever gone; there he viewed Marie Antoinette as in beauty beyond the lot of human excellence; and next as in pity beyond the lot of human ſuffering. By the author's luminous torch he ſaw her bearing her ſon to the loyal officers; he viewed the

Parifian mob breaking into her apartments, and the fwords of ruffians drawn for her deftruction, and lamenting followed her dragged in triumph by a banditti of ruffians. The fcene being changed he was carried into the National Affembly. There the dramatift exhibited pedlars and excifemen engaged in financial legiflation; country curates as new modelling the church, and country attornies as eftablifhing a code of laws for the government of an empire; with a fide profpect of fifhwomen taking their feats in the fenate, while a mob hallooed behind the fcenes. The imagery and pathos of the bard and orator made the firft impreffion. Reflecting, however, that the production was not exhibited for the purpofe of theatrical effect, but intended to prefent facts, enforce conviction, and influence conduct, he returned to examine it in thofe lights. He

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acknowledges that when he firſt reviewed his own faſcination he imputed it to the ſpell of the author's genius, and ſuppoſed that inveſtigation would convince him that its merit was merely poetic and oratorical. He therefore reſolved, in his next reading, to view it as a ſeries of reaſoning and of philoſophy. The connection of argument he did not immediately perceive; ſeparate links were very maſſive and ſtrong, but he frequently could not diſcover the juncture; and as the links lay huddled before him, with a vaſt variety of colouring and decorations, he thought them detached and unconnected pieces; but unfolding and viewing the whole, he ſaw that they formed one continuous chain, which might have been more ſimple and regular, but could not well be ſtronger. Expanded and profound wiſdom he ſaw in the principles and de-

ductions refpecting intellectual, moral, political proceffes and operations, and the influence of religion on the wifdom, virtue, and happinefs of individuals and focieties. He was by no means, however, convinced that the French revolutionifts were fuch men, either in character or condition, as the author defcribed, and therefore could not entirely admit the juftnefs of his conclufions, or the probable fulfilment of his predictions. He was, however, ftaggered in his opinion of the French revolution, and refolved to avoid forming any final judgment until it fhould be farther known by events. He ftill had no apprehenfions that it could poffibly produce any bad effects upon Britain. If it were to prove the excellent fyftem of mixed liberty, an order which fome of its earlieft votaries had fought, the Britifh muft love and cherifh it, as

if not ſimilar in detail, analogous in principle and object to their own. If on the other hand it proved the bloody and ferocious anarchy which Mr. Burke predicted, no Briton, of either patriotiſm or property, could be ſo frantic as to wiſh a change from happineſs to miſery. But as he attended to the varying ſtate of opinion and ſentiment, he began to apprehend that not a few in the prevalent eagerneſs for change were becoming votaries of revolution.

Among literary men, with very few exceptions, even able and learned writers were friendly to a change of political ſyſtem, and of the much more numerous claſs of writers that were neither able nor learned, at leaſt three-fourths of writers became enemies to the eſtabliſhment. Among theſe were the loweſt retainers of learning. Book-makers, news-gatherers, paragraph-joiners, col-

lectors and retailers of puns, poetry, and jokes, ſcrap-rakers, and other pioneers of literature, were to a man democratic. In the jacobin clubs literary men poſſeſſed great influence, and many who were, or fancied themſelves literary men, here expected, that if a revolution ſhould take place in England, they ſhould have the direction of affairs. But the work of Thomas Paine, which now made its appearance, moſt completely unhinged loyalty and patriotiſm in the breaſts of great numbers of profeſſed votaries of literature, and many others who made no claims to learning; and the effect of that noted production contributed much more powerfully to wean our hero from approbation of revolutionary doctrines, than the deepeſt wiſdom of Burke himſelf. Perhaps, indeed, there never was a writer who more completely attained the art of impoſing and impreſſing non-

ſenſe on ignorant and undiſtinguiſhing minds, as ſenſe and ſound reaſoning; more fitted for playing on the paſſions of the vulgar, for gaining their affections by gratifying their prejudices, and through thoſe affections procuring their aſſent to any aſſertion which he choſe to advance. His manner was peculiarly calculated to impreſs and affect ſuch objects. The coarſe familiarity of his language was in uniſon with vulgar taſte; the directneſs of his efforts, and boldneſs of his aſſertions, paſſed with ignorance for the confidence of undoubted truth. But it was not only the manner of his communication, but the ſubſtance of his doctrine, that was peculiarly pleaſing to the lower ranks. Vanity, pride, and ambition, are paſſions which exiſt with as much force in the tap-room of an ale-houſe as in a ſenate. When peaſants, labourers, and journeymen mechanics

chanics were told that they were as fit for governing the country as any man in parliament, it was a very pleafing idea; it gave an agreeable fwell to their felf-importance. When farther informed that they were not only qualified for fuch high appointments, but alfo, if they exerted themfelves, had the means of attaining them; this was ftill better: it brought power, money, and luxury within their fancied reach, and might induce them to call for an extraordinary pot, to be afterwards paid from the proceeds of their preferment. Befides the completely ignorant and vulgar, there was another numerous fet, to whom Paine's works were peculiarly gratifying; and that was thofe who, without any original education, got hold of fcraps of learning; who, having no general idea of the circle of arts and fciences, of the compartments of literature, fancied that

the little knowledge in their own poſ-ſeſſion conſtituted the principal portion of human learning.

The generoſity of the Engliſh, notwithſtanding the diſtinguiſhing good ſenſe of the nation, renders them peculiarly liable to impoſture. Hence ariſes a temptation to quacks of every kind, and numbers of that ſpecies ariſe that know no more of what they profeſs, than Drs. Solomon and Brodum know of medicine; the coal-heaving teacher of methodiſm knows of morality and religion; or the miſſionary jugglers, who peſter Scotland, and endeavour to ſow diſcord, do of the goſpel of peace; or the hymn manufacturers for the Evangelical Magazine, know of ſenſe and poetry; or Dr. Dicky Scribble of the many and every ſubject which he undertakes to handle. In literature, quackery is not leſs common than in vending

either

either pills or methodiftical exhortations. A fhopkeeper or mechanic finds his craft not anfwer his purpofe, he takes to the literary line, begins with collecting the lower branches of intelligence for newfpapers, enquires whofe horfe ran away in Hyde Park, what chaife was damaged by a ftage-coach on the road between Kentifh-town and Mother Red-cap's, what drunken bricklayer fought with a drunken blackfmith near the Jews's Harp. Thefe articles reviewed and refpelt by the editor, conftitute the firft ftep of the literary novitiate. Next he fcrapes acquaintance with footmen; when grand dinners, routes, balls, or affemblies are beftowed, he attends in the halls, takes a lift of the company, and in his report informs the public, among many diftinguifhed perfonages of both fexes, *we* particularly noticed the following, &c. &c. Going from place to place, our

our *ſcholar* may, in the courſe of an evening, acquire a great variety of ſuch *learning*. This is a more advanced poſt, but there are higher in ſtore; he is next promoted to be nomenclator of the perſons who reſort to court. He makes acquaintance with the yeomen of the guards, they, on *proper* application, repeat to him the names; on the ſtairs he enlarges his acquaintance with footmen, and is able to pick up anecdotes of families; he learns who and who are together, and becomes ſuch an adept in compoſition as to dreſs out a bit of ſcandal. He is able to fetch and carry for Blackball, and beſides his periodical labours can venture a little in the anecdote way. Having become well acquainted with faſhionable faces, he is next ſent to the theatres, and by reading the newſpaper criticiſms becomes ſomething of a critic himſelf. To extend his

his views of dramatic literature, he betakes himſelf to the Garrick's Head, and becomes a humble liſtener of the players, afterwards retails their jokes as his own; there he forms his eſtimate of dramatic poetry, ſtudies the dramatic cenſor, and becomes a theatrical critic. Perhaps now he may riſe to be a parliamentary reporter, and if he do, of courſe he becomes a political philoſopher and a ſtateſman; and in thoſe days when debating ſocieties were in vogue, he was alſo an orator, or we ſtill may be if admiſſible to public meetings, eſpecially thoſe in which dinner and wine precede deliberation and eloquence. Now he undertakes political eſſays, or even pamphlets; behold our journeyman, without any learning, human or divine, ſet up for an author, and many are ſuch members of the republic of letters.

Another ſets out from a point ſomewhat

more akin to learning, begins as porter's boy in the veftibule of the mufes, or to fpeak lefs figuratively, opens as *a printer's devil.* He takes one of two courfes, or both, afpires at being a compofitor, or a reader. In fuch occupations, if tolerably fharp, he acquires a much better education than many profeffed men of letters; he becomes acquainted with fpelling, and even receives an infight into higher parts of grammar; is tolerably correct in ordinary language. A perfon of this kind, if he be fteady, becomes extremely ufeful in his own line; but fhould he not be fteady, he has recourfe to the profeffion of letters, offers his fervices to a magazine," and not for mere collections of occurrences, like the recorder of run-away horfes, and boxing matches, but deals in felections, and alfo originals. He becomes a literary critic and a reviewer, nay, even rifes to

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be an editor, and gradually acquires ſuch celebrity in that occupation, that he is run upon, and perhaps diſtinguiſhed by the title of Editor Atall. Somewhat higher than theſe in their outſet, are perſons who having been bred to learned profeſſions, eſpecially law and medicine, in which it is very difficult to get on without ability, knowledge, and ſkill, find things will not anſwer, and being unoccupied by briefs or conſultations, betake themſelves to the profeſſion of letters. A man has been called to the bar, but finds that at Weſtminſter-hall, though *many are called but few are choſen*, therefore he takes to the inſtruction of mankind through newſpapers and magazines. A profeſſor of medical art and ſcience becomes a doctor of medicine, but finds his degree does not procure a demand for his preſcriptions, therefore he offers his advice, not to the ſick,

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but to thofe who are in health. Numerous are the recruits in the literary ranks, from counfellors and phyficians, who, unable to procure clients and patients, have fought refuge in the occupation of authors. It may be naturally afked, Are not unfuccefsful clergymen in the fame fituation? To this the anfwer is obvious, and indeed trite. Succefs, good or bad, is not in a clergyman the confequence of qualifications, good or bad, with the fame probability as in the other learned profeffions; the recovery or defence of our property we will not truft to an infufficient lawyer; the recovery of our health we will not truft to an incapable phyfician; but our fpiritual concerns we readily entruft, without much inveftigation of the competency of the guide. High fees are beftowed on the moft eminent profeffional men, but rich livings are often

beftowed upon blockheads, and befides, clergy who are not able to rife by their abilities, and have not intereft to compenfate the deficiency, have a never-failing refource in becoming mafters of academies. Another refervoir, that for many years has diffufed plentiful fupplies of authors, is diffent from the eftablifhed church. Scarcely a diffenting minifter is to be found, who is not a profeffed author. Of thefe, two were very able and learned men, and a few others refpectable, but much the greater number are far from having any pretenfions to genius and erudition, and moft of them, whether able or weak, the votaries of vifionary reveries, inftead of folid and fubftantial wifdom; and no one clafs has been fo productive of incapable, illiterate, and trifling authors, as the nonconformifts. In addition to thefe, were your fentimental writers, who regarded

the ſupreme happineſs of mankind, as conſiſting in the poſſeſſion and gratification of fine ſenſibility, who decried all reſtraint as irkſome to the feelings; theſe figured away in plays and novels, and poems and fables and tales, abounded in prettineſſes and pathos, and many other qualities, and merely wanted ſenſe, virtue, and piety. Inſtances of theſe and many other kinds, will readily ſuggeſt themſelves, and ſcarcely one of the literary quacks, but had knots of admirers, who regarded him or her as a ſhining light, and implicitly followed as a guide. In ſuch a prediſpoſition for the reception of nonſenſe, and eſpecially innovating nonſenſe, Tom Paine's book was wonderfully adapted for circulation.

Many were dabblers in what they ſuppoſed metaphyſics, for whom Paine provided his diſtinctions and definitions, in ſuch a way as to give them a notion,

that

that when they were repeating his words, they were pouring forth philoſophy. He beſtowed on them, with a liberal hand, his *impreſcriptible rights*, *organization*, *general will*, *attaint upon principles*, and many other phraſes, from which his votaries thought themſelves as much inſtructed, as the under grave-digger in Hamlet ſuppoſed himſelf from the learned diſtinctions of the upper. To a man who ſhould eſtimate the probable reception of opinions, ſolely by their truths, it would appear extremely wonderful how ſo nonſenſical jargon came ever to have any currency. Recollection of hiſtory, however, and attention to mankind, prevents ſurpriſe, that even Paine's declamations were applauded. Hiſtory, indeed, and even the hiſtory of our own country, ſhews us, that Tom Paine, extravagant as he is, is far from being new. Our hero remarked, that there was a

wonderful

wonderful reſemblance between Tom Paine and John Cade; Jack maintained the ſame doctrine of equality and rank, and as he could not raiſe himſelf to the level of men of merit and abilities, his next beſt expedient was to pull them down to his level. Shakeſpeare, who ſo thoroughly knew the human mind in all its vagaries, deſcribes John Cade, John Holland, George Bevis, &c. as ſpeaking not only the ſentiments, but almoſt the very language which Paine has ſince uſed. Says Paine, "All men are equal; all artificial diſtinctions, ſuch as rank, title, and corporate bodies, are contrary to natural equality, and the rights of man!" Hear we John Holland and George Bevis.

"*Holland.* Well, I ſay, twas never a merry world in England ſince gentlemen came up.

" *Bevis.* O miſerable age! Virtue is not regarded in handicraftſmen.

" *Holland.* The nobility think ſcorn to go in leather aprons.

" *Bevis.* Nay more, the King's council are no good workmen.

" *Holland.* True, and yet it is ſaid—labour in thy vocation: which is as much as to ſay, let the magiſtrates be labouring men, *and therefore ſhould* WE *be magiſtrates.*"

We may obſerve a vaſt ſimiliarity of policy between John Cade himſelf and Tom Paine. Says Paine, " Down with your lords and commons, and kings and biſhops, deſtroy them all: pull down your univerſities, and cathedrals, and corporations; down, down with them all!" Cade had long before anticipated the ſame exhortations. " Go, (ſays he,) and ſet London-bridge on fire; and, if you can, burn down the tower

too.

too.—Go, ſome, and pull down the Savoy; others to the Inns of Court; down with them all.—Burn all the records of the realms; *my mouth ſhall be the Parliament of England, and henceforward all things ſhall be in common.*"

The arguments of Tom Paine were totally inapplicable, not only to this, but to any exiſting ſociety. The propoſed experiment could not be tried but among ſavages; and among them equality could not long be preſerved. The ſtrong, the courageous, active, and enterpriſing, would have the means of ſubſiſtence, accommodation, and ſecurity, in a greater degree, than the feeble, the timid, the inert, and indolent. This abſurdity eaſily eſcaped detection by the claſs of readers among whom the work was moſt ſtudiouſly circulated. When John Cade propoſed that the conduit ſhould run with claret for the firſt year after his ſubverſion

verſion of the exiſting government, John Holland and George Bevis were not ſtruck with the impoſſibility of the propoſal being put in execution, but delighted with the idea that they might now drink wine, and be as great as lords. "Be brave then," ſays Cade, "for your captain is brave, and vows REFORMATION. There ſhall be, in England, ſeven halfpenny loaves ſold for a penny; the three-hoop'd pot ſhall have two hoops; and I will make it felony to drink ſmall-beer! All the realm ſhall be in common, and in Cheapſide ſhall my palfrey go to graſs. And when I am king, as king I will be—(*All.* God ſave your majeſty!)—there ſhall be no money; ALL ſhall eat and drink on my ſcore; and I will apparel them ALL in one livery, that they may agree like brothers, and worſhip me their lord." Cade's admirers were, no doubt, delighted

lighted at the thought of having meat, drink, and raiment, at free coſt, and in their joy forgot to enquire how Cade was to have means of ſo extenſive beneficence. As Paine, as well as Cade, *vowed reformation*, every one's fancy framed reforms in what particularly concerned himſelf: the journeyman ſhoemaker found that hitherto his wages were in proportion to his work; through Tom Paine he expected great wages with very ſmall work. The amateurs of gin and whiſky expected, that through Tom Paine the revenue would be aboliſhed, and they would have their favourite beverage at leſs coſt. The diviſion of property, too, many of them expected would not only leſſen their work, and increaſe their favourite enjoyments, but enable them to live and revel without working at all. In ſhort, weakneſs, and ignorance of underſtanding,

vanity,

vanity, pride, love of idleneſs, and luxury, and the hope of plunder, concurred with the active and inceſſant endeavours of democratic underlings, in rendering ſo extravagant, impudent, abſurd, and miſchievous, a publication palatable among numbers of the lower ranks. Diſcontent, malignant hatred of a government in which they themſelves were not promoted according to their fancied merits, made others encourage the writings and principles of Paine, however much they might have deſpiſed his illiterature and ſophiſtry. But not the ignorant only, writers of reſpectable talents and erudition declared the ravings and vagaries of Paine to be the invincible energy of truth and ſenſe, to combine hiſtory and philoſophy. Such eſpecially was the opinion of the Analytical reviewers, who had great influence among numerous claſſes of Britiſh ſubjects; and the following

MAHARAJA SERFOGI'S SARAS

lowing contraſt between Burke and Paine exhibits the prominent features of the ſentiments and opinions which in the laſt ten years of the eighteenth century had ſuch a powerful effect on the literature of our country. "Each of them intereſts our feelings, but in a different manner; elegant and declamatory, Mr. Burke ſeduces us along by the charms of his eloquence: plain, but forcible, Mr. Paine carries us away with him by the invincible energy of truth and ſenſe. Fanciful and excurſive, Mr. Burke delights the imagination by the beauty of his metaphors, and the ſplendour of his ornaments; while his opponent holds our judgment captive by the native vigour of his arguments, the originality of his ſentiments, and the pointedneſs of his remarks. Mr. Burke is the poliſhed and playful courtier, who dances in his chains; Mr. Paine is the ſtern re-

publican,

publican, who exults in his liberty, and treats with equal freedom the monarch and the peaſant. In a word, without ſubſcribing implicitly to every principle which our author advances, we cannot in juſtice withhold this teſtimony to the work before us, that it is one of the moſt curious, original, and intereſting publications, which the ſingular viciſſitudes of modern politics have produced. Independent of its value as a polemical work, it is truly excellent and uſeful in an hiſtorical view. In it the ſprings and ſources of the French revolution are traced with the acuteneſs and perſpicacity of a Tacitus; his information bears its authority upon the face of it, and almoſt convinces by the weight of its internal evidence." Such notions diſſeminated among great numbers that were totally incapable of judging, produced very general impreſſion. "Nobility, (it

(it was ſaid,) is an inſtitution that could only be reconciled to a ſtate of barbariſm. It is a diſtinction equally impolitic and immoral, worthy of the times of ignorance and of rapine, which gave it birth; is a violation of the rights of that part of the nation that is deprived of it; and as equality becomes a *ſtimulus* towards diſtinction, ſo on the other hand this is the radical vice of a goverment, and the ſource of a variety of evils. It is impoſſible that there ſhould be any uncommon inſtances of virtue in a ſtate, when recompences belong excluſively to a certain claſs of ſociety, and when it coſts them no more to obtain theſe, than the *trouble of being born*. Amongſt this liſt of privileged perſons, virtues, talents, and genius, muſt of courſe be much leſs frequent than in the other claſſes, ſince without the poſſeſſion of any of theſe qualities, they who belong

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to it are ſtill honoured and rewarded. Thoſe who profit by this abſurd ſubverſion of principles, and thoſe who loſe by this unjuſt diſtribution of favours, which ſeem to have grown into a right, cannot have any other than falſe, immoral, and pernicious ideas concerning *merit*. The clergy are a body which ſubſiſt by deception. The eſtabliſhment of a predominant church is prejudicial to the peace and welfare of a country. Whoever has any knowledge of the human heart; whoever is convinced of the right every man has to think for himſelf, though there are many who renounce it; whoever has remarked the impreſſion which a ſuperſtitious education makes upon mankind, how it weakens the underſtanding, foſters holy pride, and pious hatred; whoever attends to the great abuſe, which many of thoſe who call themſelves miniſters of the

true church, frequently make of exclusive privileges, which the law confers upon them, will readily acknowledge, that it would be much better for the community, if every man were permitted, without interruption or controul, to follow the dictates of his own fancy, whatever these might be. The church wants reform, and they never will be brought to reform themselves, therefore the surest care for their defects is their subversion as a separate order. The destruction of the clergy is one necessary means for the perfection of society.—Monarchy is a most absurd institution, it is quite inconsistent with that equality that is both the right and the perfection of human nature. Why should any one man be superior to another?" Is it not very hard that one man should be six feet two inches high, with broad shoulders, and muscular limbs, when another is only five

five feet, with narrow ſhoulders, and puny limbs? It may be anſwered, God and nature have ordered it ſo, and have made great inequalities in all their works; but it is the buſineſs of philoſophers to correct God and nature; and effectually to prevent civil and political inequalities, let there be none in nature. Buffon informs us, that five feet ſeven is the average height of adult Europeans: then get the bed of Procruſtes, ſo only can you equalize ſtature; and the experiment would not be more impracticable than an attempt to equalize talents for government.

But a noted argument in favour of the deſtruction of eſtabliſhed governments was, that complete democracy would be much cheaper than any mixed government which contained a portion of monarchy. If the chief perfection of ſociety were cheapneſs, by living in hovels,

hovels, feeding on roots, drinking water, the houſe and window tax might be ſaved, alſo the land and malt tax, and both ordinary and extraordinary impoſts upon port-wine; but habit and civilization have produced a liking for accommodations that may be not abſolutely neceſſary. In civil ſociety we do not eſtimate ſmallneſs of coſt as a ſupreme good, the ſame holds in political eſtabliſhments. Inſtitutions are not good merely for being low priced, their goodneſs depends upon the aggregate of ſecure and permanent benefit, which they admit. The great proof of the benefit of revolution as an expedient of economy, was the ſavings that the new order of things had produced from France. "In conſequence of the revolution," ſaid the prophets of economy, "the people will have much leſs to pay, and republican France, for cheapneſs, is a

model

model for the imitation of other countries. For all these reasons the nobility, hierarchy, and monarchy, ought to be entirely destroyed. But such subversion is only a partial establishment of equality; every species of separate right implies inequality, and therefore ought to be abolished. All things should be in common; the destruction of kings, lords, and bishops, is only a means leading to division of property, and unrestrained gratification of passions, as the great end:" But as in Britain there was a very strong attachment to the establishments of the country, of which the aggregate result was by experience demonstrated to be supremely beneficial by the votaries of revolution, the first and grand object to be compassed was, to render the people desirous of change; while therefore the more profound and designing sought to effect subversion of establishments, in order

order to erect new fabrics, that might be subject to their own command, they found most active instruments in enthusiastic partisans of indefinite innovation, and especially in literary associates, who readily joined in supporting theories which appeared to them well fitted to extend the sway of intellectual powers, and to attach power and pre-eminence to that species of talents which they conceived themselves to possess. Proceeding on the simple principle, that good was constituted by alteration, various writers, including some of considerable ingenuity, chiefly directed their attention to change, that is all the change which their literature could effect. Ingenuity, decorated nonsense and absurdity, the fine spun theories of Joel and Anne, Croft and German literature, powerfully contributed to the deviation of very inferior writers, from common sense and experience. In

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the literary, as in other claſſes, a very great number judged and acted not from original conviction and determination, but from example; and many were merely driven round in Tom Paine's political mill, without any comprehenſion of the tendency and effects of the labours in which they were employed. They declaimed againſt the uſurpation of eſtabliſhments, merely becauſe others did ſo before them. Theſe pretended inveſtigators of human right, and explainers of human happineſs, conſidered the Rights of Man, merely becauſe the conſideration was faſhionable; and if the doctrines of the Pope's ſupremacy had been in vogue, would have been the ardent partizans of a Guiſe, a Lorrain, and an Alva, and would have praiſed the maſſacres of Auguſt 24th, 1572, as readily as of Auguſt 10th, 1792. In literature, indeed, ariſtocracy is very prevalent; there

are chieftains, and there are numerous tribes of retainers, whose intellectual nourishment is derived from some lord paramount. At this time, Voltaire, Rousseau, and Priestley, were the liege lords of many literary vassals, while Paine and others acted as the trumpeters to collect the powers, and summon them to the charge. The vassals did not enquire into the justice of the cause, they deemed it their chief glory to swell the muster-roll of their commanding officer. Hence there was such a number of combatants on the side of the innovating champions. The leaders of subversion attacked the bulwarks and defenders of our political fortress, because they wished to lay it prostrate; the followers, because their commanders prompted and encouraged their efforts. Helvetius, or Price, fought for victory, their humble coadjutors for Helvetius, or for Price—*Principes pro*

victoria

victoria pugnant; comites pro principe. In the ſame way it was in the reign of Anne, and George I. ſome eminent writers took to poetry and criticiſm, and many ſcores took to poetry and criticiſm after them, and humbly tried to ape their betters, as waiting-maids and milliners, footmen or hair dreſſers, endeavouring to imitate the deportment of ladies or of gentlemen, and would have you ſuppoſe them to be perſons of faſhion. Lord Bacon has obſerved, that as people that have no ſubſtance of their own, and are unable or unwilling to labour, muſt either beg or ſteal from ſomebody elſe, ſo muſt thoſe who undertake to deliver judgment, or write books without a knowledge of the ſubject; and if perſons do ſteal, they will certainly try to lay their hands on the goods that may be moſt readily diſpoſed of among the receivers of their ſtolen commodities.

Tom Paine ſtole many of his materials from the French writers, and ſome from their able co-operators in England; but Tom was really ſo dexterous a manufacturer, that he made his political pieces have the appearance of originals. But moſt of his ſucceſſors merely copied and repeated his ſayings. Whitfield hitting the temper of the times, framed a new theory of religion, which found many votaries: Whitfield had genius, but a hundred ſpeakers and writers retailed his commodities from tabernacles, joint-ſtools, cart-ſheds, or written ſermons, pamphlets, or exhortations. So were the new theories of politics, which originated in miſemployed genius, bandied about among ſpeakers and writers of no genius; and as a tranſmogrified coal-heaver, or a vender of quack medicines, might retail from his chapel the doctrines of Whitfield, and bring in, as a proof of providence,

providence, a pair of breeches inftead of a leg of mutton*; fo a blackfmith could leave his anvil for his political pulpit, and vend the quack medicines of Tom Paine.

But though revolutionary politics diffufed themfelves over great numbers of the ignorant votaries of literature, they extended to many others of a very contrary defcription, and efforts of talents and erudition were wafted in fupporting extravagant paradoxes, pernicious principles, and wild theories, that could have informed and inftructed mankind by valuable reafonings and inculcations; and our hero had occafion to fee the effect of the Turgot theory of the perfectibility of man fully exemplified. The Englifh champion of this doctrine was St. Leon, a writer of very confiderable ingenuity, who, with the œconomique

* A handicraft methodift preacher prayed for *a pair of breeches*; a pair was the next day fent.

 philo-

philosophy of the French school, undertook to join some of the metaphysical tenets of David Hume, as they were interpreted by St. Leon himself, especially his opinions on the foundations of morality; and whereas Mr. Hume has asserted, that the qualities and actions which the mind approves as virtuous, are those which are found either agreeable or useful to society, St. Leon asserted, that in every individual action the merit depends on its being performed by the agent, with a view to the aggregate benefit of all sentient beings, or, as he phrases it, what is best upon the whole. On this best upon the whole, together with the perfectibility of man, he constituted a very singular system that he delivered to the world, in a book which made a very extensive impression on minds predisposed for boundless innovation. Our hero was at great pains to make himself master of a production

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in which the eſtabliſhment of the moſt extravagant nonſenſe was the end, for compaſſing which, acuteneſs and ingenuity were the means, and he was at a loſs whether moſt to wonder at the folly of the propoſitions which were to be demonſtrated, or the ſkill and ability of the intermediations; and he could not help thinking that St. Leon richly deſerved to rank with the ancient Pyrrho, with the modern Hobbes, Spinoſa, Mandeville, or any others who miſemployed brilliant talents, in framing abſurd or miſchievous hypotheſes. Powers which a refined ſtate of ſociety only could have produced, were by St. Leon exerted in recommending the rudeſt barbarity and incivilization. Metaphyſical acuteneſs, and concatenated argumentation, were exerciſed in controverting truths, which the groſſeſt ſtupidity can perceive to be undeniable, while pro-

found wiſdom regards them as the foundation of ſociety. Poliſhed elegance of compoſition attempted to effect the reſtoration of chaotic ignorance, chaſte purity of language recommended the promiſcuous intercourſe of the ſexes, the calmneſs of philoſophical diſquiſition inculcated the deſtruction of peace and of order, in the overthrow of property and of law; the ardent purſuer of the happineſs of mankind ſought to deſtroy the tendereſt endearments and beſt affections of the human heart. The votary of benevolence endeavoured to deſtroy the ſentiments and actions which conduce moſt powerfully to the well-being of the human race. Man he aſſerted to be perfectible; and profeſſed to ſtimulate him to the attainment of that perfection which he affirmed to be in his power; but inſtead of affording new motives to intellectual and moral im-

provement,

provement, he inculcated a ſyſtem that would have degraded him to the level of beaſts. To complete the downfal of human nature from that reaſon and conſcience by which it has been diſtinguiſhed from the brute creation, he projected to annihilate religion. Leſt the fine-ſpun deductions of abuſed logic ſhould be unſucceſsful in conveying doctrines ſo abſurd, and practices ſo deſtructive, the powers of fancy are ſuperadded to render them pictureſque and impreſſive. Subtle ſophiſtry alone could hardly eſtabliſh the inutility of criminal juſtice, but an affecting fable ſetting forth the puniſhment of innocence, and the eſcape of guilt, ſtrongly intereſts the feelings; and the emotions of the heart are miſtaken for the concluſions of the head. A fictitious tale of an individual caſe is ſo ſkilfully managed, as, to many, to appear a fair and general exhibition of

penal

penal law, and its operation. Virtuous ſenſibility is excited againſt the neceſſary muniments of property, and the correctives of crimes. Such was the miſapplication of great literary powers, that ſprung from the boundleſs love of innovation. Speculative men have often, in theory, ſupported principles inconſiſtent with the common ſenſe of mankind, and the well-being of ſociety, without reducing their ſpeculations to practice! A reader of theſe ſingular works muſt have reprobated doctrines that tended, if admitted, to deſtroy our reſpect for marriage, property, promiſes; our conviction of the immortality of the ſoul; the ties of natural affection, gratitude, friendſhip; every cement of civil and ſocial duty; to overturn monarchy, laws, government, and every political inſtitution. But it might have been ſuppoſed that the author merely

merely advanced paradoxes for the ſake of diſplaying ingenuity; that he himſelf was convinced, as much as any other, endowed with reaſon muſt be, of the total incompatibility of ſuch *ravings* with any thing that could actually exiſt. But he followed his ſpeculation by a practical model, and exhibited as a pattern of perfection a real character, who, according to his account, ſyſtematically deviated from the chief virtues of her ſex. This ſingular example of female perfection, whom the writer exhorted her ſex throughout the world to imitate, was a concubine. But of her various qualifications, a few ſpecimens may ſerve—Firſt we have her chaſtity; Miſs reſorted to France, and became a kept-miſtreſs; this, according to her panegyriſt, was a ſpecies of connection for which *her heart ſecretly panted*, and which had the effect of diffuſing an immediate

mediate tranquillity and cheerfulneſs over her manners. The beneficial conſequences accruing to this *exemplary* lady from *concubinage* did not always laſt. Her keeper forſook her; ſhe followed him to England. Afterwards ſhe lived on a ſimilar footing with her encomiaſt himſelf, who in a few words exhibits the practical conduct which his leſſons inculcated, "We did not marry. It is difficult to recommend any thing to indiſcriminate adoption, contrary to the eſtabliſhed rules and prejudices of mankind; but certainly nothing can be ſo ridiculous upon the face of it, or ſo contrary to the genuine march of ſentiments, as to require the overflowing of the ſoul to wait upon a ceremony; and that which, wherever delicacy and imagination exiſt, is of all things moſt ſacredly private, to blow a trumpet before it, and to record the moment when it arrived at its climax."

When

When recording her excurſion to England, her orator gives us a ſample of her patriotiſm. "England was a country for which ſhe expreſſed a repugnance that almoſt amounted to horror." To her moral and political virtues, he adds the account of her religious attainments. "She had received few leſſons of religion in her youth, and her religion was almoſt entirely of her own creation. She could not recollect the time when ſhe had believed the doctrine of future puniſhments." As ſhe advanced in philoſophy, her attendance on public worſhip became leſs and leſs conſtant, and was ſoon wholly diſcontinued. Her diſregard for the ordinances of piety, drew from her champion the following reflection:—"I believe it may be admitted as a maxim, that no perſon of a well-furniſhed mind, that has ſhaken off the implicit ſubjection of youth, and is not the

the zealous partizan of a ſect, can bring himſelf to conform to the public and regular routine of ſermons and prayers." Such doctrines and leſſons made a very deep impreſſion on the inferior votaries of literature. The ingenuity of the author rendered abſurdity plauſible in his theories, and poiſon palatable in his inculcations. The perfectibility of man to be conſummated by a political juſtice, which ſhould overthrow religion, government, property, marriage, good faith, patriotiſm, and all the relative duties of ſociety, was rung in an infinite number of changes. The ſpirit of St. Leon was diffuſed through books, and pamphlets, and periodical publications. It met us at the theatre, or popt on us in the form of novels. Catching as it went the follies of its various bearers, it babbled in ſpouting clubs, howled from the tribune, or by its importunate prattle diſturbed the

tranquillity

tranquillity of private companies. So pernicious it is to common ſenſe, reaſon, truth, virtue, order, and religion, when men of genius and learning employ their pens in ſpreading nonſenſe, abſurdity, and falſehood; vice, diſorder, and irreligion. If a writer of this ſort were to take a cool and diſpaſſionate view of the talents he has received, and the acts which he has done, the amount might probably be, nature has beſtowed on him a mind competent to the acquiſition of valuable and deep knowledge. Inſtruction and aſſiduity operating on theſe gifts of nature, have enabled him to communicate his conceptions, thoughts, and diſcoveries, agreeably, forcibly, and impreſſively. What has he done? He exhorted men and women to avoid the firſt link of a rational community, marriage, and to mingle with promiſcuous intercourſe, according to temporary impulſe,

pulse, and after the fashion of beasts. Respecting their offspring, the next gem of civil society, he exhorted them to descend below beasts, which have a care for their young. He instigated parents to disregard their children, and children their parents; he carried his proscription of natural affection through the relation of brother and sister. Lest this attempt to prevent the formation of a family, and so to arrest society in its first stage, should prove unsuccessful, he attacked it in more advanced progress, and endeavoured to destroy faith between man and man, to proscribe adherence to promises, to annihilate property, one of the great cements of society, and to banish religion, the grand security of human happiness. His practical lessons teach, that the restraints on unmarried women are not conducive to the welfare of society; that chastity is not a

virtue,

virtue, and concubinage a vice; that women are not likely to be better members of ſociety, domeſtic, civil, and political, for being continent than proſtitutes. He ſet up an immoral and impious model for the ſex, and if all women were to follow the example of his heroine, univerſal profligacy and irreligion would enſue. As far, therefore, as the literary authority and power of theſe writings reach, they tend to increaſe debauchery and impiety. He has written a metaphyſical work, of which the theoretical propoſitions are chimerical, abſurd, and totally irreconcileable to human nature, as known to us by experience and induction, the only guides to juſt intellectual and moral ſpeculation; and the practical doctrines, inculcated by precept and example, lead to the moſt unwiſe and immoral conduct, and to conſequences that would unhinge all

domeſtic,

domeftic, focial, civil, political, and religious fociety. Such will a fair and impartial review of his literary efforts prefent to St. Leon the ufe and improvement of his talents and acquirements. That he intended fuch confequences, I by no means affert. I think it probable he did not. I fhould rather impute his work to an underftanding fo perverted by a favourite hypothefis, as to be unable, however acute and ingenious on other fubjects, to diftinguifh truth whenever that hypothefis was concerned. We have no reafon to fuppofe that St. Leon, who is in private life faid not to be unamiable, would be guilty of fuch gratuitous wickednefs, as to be intentionally a ftrenuous promoter of the moft deftructive profligacy. But whatever his intentions may have been, the tendency is the fame.

Equally

Equally abſurd is the phyſical as the moral and political philoſophy of the ſingular St. Leon. What opinion can we entertain of a man who ſeriouſly thinks that, at ſome future period, the neceſſity of ſleep to an animal may ceaſe, who has even aſſerted that death may be poſtponed at pleaſure; who maintains that inanimate nature may move without any animate cauſe, and even move to certain definite and beneficial purpoſes; that a plough may till the ground without any direction from men, and aid from horſes, or any other animals; who, by confounding the qualities and operations of matter and mind, would afford pretexts for an inference, that the univerſe may exiſt and be directed in its preſent ſyſtem and order without the guidance of an intelligent cauſe; who has employed his ingenuity in endeavouring to eſtabliſh atheiſm. Whatever may be

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St. Leon's private habits of life, however temperate in pleafurable indulgence, or fair and equitable in his tranfactions of bufinefs, his doctrines tend to diffeminate profligacy and iniquity; and as his works are read in a much wider circle than his conduct is feen or known, the mifchief of his precepts and exhortations is infinitely greater than the benefit of his example and practice. The author of the "Political Juftice," and the biographical vindication of concubinage, from his agreeable and perfuafive manner, has fpread a great quantity of poifon, againft which feeble is the antidote to be found in the private life and converfation of St. Leon.

That fingular theorift no doubt poffeffes genius; fubtle indeed rather than folid and vigorous, fanciful and refining without being profound. Such a man generally fteers out of the walk of

common ſenſe and views, both the natural and moral world, through ſome other medium than plain obſervation and experience.

The eccentric movements of St. Leon, have done all the evil that his powers and ſphere would admit. It is true, he has not done nearly ſo much evil as Rouſſeau, becauſe though reſembling that father of falſe morals and politics, in deviation from common ſenſe, impreſſive as St. Leon is, he is far, very far beneath the author of Eloiſa, in force and fertility of invention; in extent of views, and in the faſcination of eloquence. The whole of his ſceptical compoſitions, (that is the chief part of his writings) have not done nearly ſo much evil as the few eſſays of Hume, for promoting pyrrhoniſm and infidelity; becauſe acute and ſubtle as St. Leon is, he is much farther beneath Hume in depth of philo-

MAHARAJA SERFOGI'S SARA...

ſophy and powers of reaſoning, than beneath Rouſſeau in creative fancy and perſuaſive eloquence; and twenty pages of Hume could effect more towards any purpoſe he choſe, than a thouſand pages of St. Leon; and St. Leon's chief work is a mere expatiation on a principle of Hume, carried to greater extravagance than Hume himſelf ever attempted; but as St. Leon has imitated Hume, in attempting to ſap the foundations of morality and religion, let him remember that ſuch writings conſtitute but a ſmall part of Hume's literary labours; and that he has left one work of unuſual magnitude replete with ſound wiſdom, and (with certain exceptions) one of the moſt beneficial to mankind, that graced the eighteenth century. Meaning no ſneering inſult to St. Leon, I ſhall not affect to compare him to Hume, but immeaſurably below that philoſopher, as this

ingenious fciolift may be, he is certainly a writer of very confiderable efficiency. As he has hitherto employed his talents for the detriment of mankind, let him for once try to exert them for the benefit of mankind. A very interefting tale he has told to difparage fair fame, and high confideration in the community; to vindicate thieves and robbers; and to inculcate that the inmates of jails for crimes, are more virtuous than the moft eminent characters in civil and political fociety; and that penal laws are an intolerable grievance to freemen: in fhort, to confound all diftinctions between reputation and infamy, virtue and vice, innocence and guilt. Let him endeavour to write a tale of equal intereft, to exhibit the neceffary connection between crimes and punifhment, to promote obedience to the laws; and to advance virtue and religion. The attempt might be at firft

aukward, but perfeverance and practice would foon render it eafier; and St. Leon's powers are fully adequate to the tafk of impreffing fenfe and utility, as well as abfurdity and mifchief.

While St. Leon, with various coadjutors and minifters, endeavoured to effect fuch moral, religious, and political changes, among human beings, another very noted perfon laboured with equal activity, and greater ardour, to fafhion one half of mankind to the new doctrines. This was Jemima, the celebrated propounder of a new theory, and a new fyftem of practice, for the information and ufe of women.

Ever defirous of tracing moral effects to moral caufes, Hamilton was at great pains to enquire into the parentage, education, temperament, habits, and conduct of Mifs Jemima, in the hopes of being able to difcover whence fprang her aber-

rations from common ſenſe, and from the principles and ſentiments which the experience of mankind, in all ages, has found it moſt beneficial to ſociety to cheriſh among women. Of this female champion, he found means to learn the hiſtory, as well as the doctrines and opinions. Jemima, it ſeems, was a woman of ſtrong and lively parts, and ardent feelings; who, not having found the world to her mind, propoſed to model it to her wiſhes. She had lived to the age of thirty, without any invitation to marriage, although very ſtrongly diſpoſed to that ſtate, and finding little chance of getting a man married to herſelf, had caſt her eyes upon a man that was married to another. But the intervention of a wife, either ſtopped or limited the propoſed converſe with this object; and finding celibacy no longer tolerable, ſhe was filled with rage at the reſtraints which all civilized ſocieties have impoſed upon

women; the rigour of which was ftrongly enhanced, by the contraft that it exhibited with the free and uncontrouled range of the ladies of Otaheite. She had hitherto conformed to the abfurd and ariftocratical ideas refpecting female reputation; but thefe fhe now refolved to renounce, and to live openly in a ftate for which *fhe had long fecretly panted**, and having before abjured religion, without regarding its precepts, fhe took to herfelf a mate; or in the language of the vulgar, became a kept miftrefs. It was neither a new nor extraordinary occurrence in itfelf, for a woman tired of being a maid, and that had not fucceeded in becoming a wife, to become a concubine; but an event intrinfically not very material, may be important in its confequences. Like Dr. Sangrado, fhe was not content with practifing herfelf ac-

* Thefe are the words of a noted biographer, concerning a no lefs noted fubject,—*his own wife!*

cording

cording to the line which ſhe had mark-ed, but muſt preſcribe the ſame courſe of medicine to all others. She muſt conſtruct a theory, and write a book. But as chaſtity was not the only reſtraint which civilized ſociety requires to be impoſed on women, ſhe proceeded at once to change their condition in the community, and in freedom of conduct, as well as the nature of their purſuits, to place them on the ſame footing with men. To compaſs this purpoſe, Jemima's firſt care was in this her book, to inſtruct the underſtandings of the ſex in the *rights of women*. Theſe, in a few words, were *to act in every caſe according to their own pleaſure*; and to ſhare in all the prerogatives of men. They were to be ſoldiers, ſailors, ſenators, politicians, ſcholars, philoſophers, and rakes; they were alſo to be coachmen, poſtillions, black-ſmiths, carpenters, coal-heavers, &c.

 She

She addreſſed herſelf to the love of glory, by which ſo many of the fair are eminently diſtinguiſhed, to incite them to rivalry. She truſted the time would ſoon arrive, when the ſex would acquire high renown in boxing matches, ſword and piſtol; and when nails, the weapons at preſent employed in deciding their conteſts, ſhould be no longer in occupation. Not only the inſtruments of war, but the military tactics ſhould be changed; the hair, caps, and cloaths, were to be no longer the points of attack; women were to uſe knock-me-down blows, tierce and cart, point give point, St. George's guard. If a lady at a rout, for inſtance, happened to quarrel about an odd trick, inſtead of tearing her own fan, let her challenge her antagoniſt, "Damn your "eyes, I will darken your day-lights; "let us ſtrip to our dickies this inſtant, "as the faſhion goes, the way is not far: "the

" the Countefs of Coniac fhall be bottle-" holder; it is an office fhe likes." By Jemima's orders they might ufe dexterity, as well as prowefs, and fometimes fall without a blow. At wreftling let them bar tripping, unlefs the antagonift be a man, for then it is fair. To illuftrate, by example, the characters which fhe wifhed to form, as the Squaws and Otaheites were at too great a diftance, fhe mentioned the ladies that attended the fruit-markets at Covent-Garden, and the fifh-markets at Billingfgate. Thefe, however, were far furpaffed by their fifters in France, the *dames du Halles*, and the *poiffardes*. The Englifh fair above-mentioned, only unfex themfelves as far as feminine foftnefs extends; but the French fair laid afide all feminine tendernefs, and being as ferocious as the moft favage foldier of Attila or Kouli Khan, were much more complete models of the

hardened ftate which Jemima propofed women to attain. To diveft Englifh women entirely of delicacy and tendernefs, fanguine as the projectrefs was, fhe feared would be impracticable; but ftill fhe trufted fhe might have partial and confiderable fuccefs.

Hamilton, admiring the genius which beamed through this excentricity of pernicious inculcation, fought the acquaintance of Jemima, and was received with great complacency. She faw he was not yet a convert to her doctrines, or to thofe of her friends, Topfiturvy and St. Leon; fhe hoped that her philofophy would at length prevail over his prefent prejudices, that he might become a powerful cooperator in the grand work of *tranfmogrifying* human nature; and fhe judged him peculiarly qualified for the converfion of women. Ever fince Jemima undertook to form a new fect, fhe, in imitation

imitation of Whitfield, the coalheaver, and other *pattern makers*, held private meetings to difcufs with the pupils the fymptoms of converfion, their progrefs in the new faith, and the probability of complete profelytifm. Though a woman prefided at thefe affemblies, they did not refemble the fecrecy and myftery of the Bona Dea of ancient Rome, to whofe feftivals no male creature was fuffered to enter; and where a Clodius muft difguife himfelf in a woman's habit before he could be admitted. To be received into Jemima's meetings, a Clodius need only avow his proper character, than which none could be better fitted for the practical extenfion of Jemima's doctrines. To one of thefe meetings our hero received an invitation. He found a confiderable number of guefts, but chiefly females. Jemima, having unfortunately forgotten that an affembly was

held at a tavern, to deliberate *after* dinner upon politics and philoſophy, the laſt ſubject not to begin till after the *ſixteenth* round of toaſts, and that ſome of her particular friends muſt be of the party, had fewer viſitors than uſual. The firſt quarter of an hour ſhewed no kind of revolution in manners and cuſtoms, being occupied by the fair attendants in the ſame way as if they had been at church before the ſervice began, that is, in critical remarks on the bonnets, cloaks, and handkerchiefs of each other; the dreſs, face, and figure of the men. Under the two laſt heads our hero received great commendation. One lady that was near him declared, in an audible whiſper, that he was an Adonis, Apollo, and Hercules, in one; "but then," ſaid another lady, "he is married;" "married!" replied the firſt, with great contempt, "you, a diſciple of Jemima, and a vo-

a votary of St. Leon, talk of marriage! Marriage is a ſhameful ariſtocratical monopoly. Why ſhould ſo charming a man be *engroſſed*?"—"Pray do not talk ſo loud, Madam," ſaid the other. "There again," ſaid the firſt, "you forget the precepts of the adorable Jemima, and the divine St. Leon, that in converſe between the ſexes nothing is more unbecoming than ſecrecy. "You yourſelf," ſaid a third, "forget the precepts of our great inſtructors; you uſed the term divine, a ſound without meaning."—"I ſtand corrected; but the language of old prejudice and darkneſs will intrude inſenſibly into new philoſophy and light." The ſecond lady, obſerving a cloak with a very broad border of fine lace, ſaid, in a half jeſt, ſhe wiſhed ſhe had an opportunity of getting hold of that cloak. "What," ſaid the third, "would you ſteal?"—"Steal," ſaid ſhe; "is this your progreſs; are not we taught that pro-

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perty is an abſurd inſtitution? She has a ſurplus of lace; I have a deficiency. Have I not a right to equalization? Monroſe, who happened to overhear this dialogue, obſerved, "women, you are yet only advancing, without having reached the end of your journey. I ſhall lend you a ſpur myſelf."—"Thanks, Monroſe, you will interpret and familiarize the profound wiſdom of St. Leon. But hold, here comes our ſublime inſtructreſs."

Jemima now aſcended a pulpit, from which ſhe addreſſed the female part of her hearers. "Women, great objects of my care, I have learned that there are many who approve the exemption which I have propoſed from the ariſtocratical reſtraints, to which the monopolizing tyranny of men has ſubjected our ſex; who agree with me that women ſhould be as free as light or air, but like

not

not the toils, hardſhips, and dangers of a participation with the men. But let me explain to you the bleſſings that are mingled with theſe apparent hardſhips; ye, who are not moved by glory to a ſublime rivalry with the hitherto domineering lords of the creation, to the diſcharge of maſculine duties, ſhould recollect that there are feminine inducements; with competition in their labours, you have uncontrouled converſe with your rivals. If heroines mingle with military heroes in the ranks, they alſo join them in their tents. If the naval hero and heroine are ſtationed by the ſame gun, they alſo may be ſtationed in the ſame hammock. The hardſhips of honour are relieved by the ſoftneſs of love. If one of my aſpiring pupils ſhould wiſh to become a ſtateſwoman, and conſtitute part of the cabinet, may ſhe not ſhare, the now unoccupied affections of our prime miniſter,

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as well as his counſels; or, if ſhe do not affect the treaſurer's ſtaff, ſhe may be aſſociated with the gallant *miniſter for the home department*. Intermingling in various other manly, active, and laborious occupations, you, my diſciples, will be agreeably ſoothed by thoſe companions whoſe hardineſs you ſeek to emulate, when you become carpenters, bricklayers, ſtonemaſons, tin-women, and ſmiths. You will participate in the pleaſures, as well as occupations of ſocial converſe; journeywomen and journeymen will be as free, communicative, and joyous as are the preſent haymakers of the two ſexes. But in literary and intellectual employments, you will often club with your rivals. The gentle novel-writer, and the fierce critic will aſſociate like the lamb and the tyger in the age of Cumean prophecy. The maſters of academies, and miſtreſſes of boarding ſchools

ſchools will be no longer ſeparate pro-feſſions: young men and young women will be educated together, and the ſweet reciprocations of juvenile ſenſibility will qualify the acrimony of rivalry; and, as I truſt, in that improved ſtate of civil ſociety, political inſtitutions will be meliorated in proportion; no cenſure or puniſhment will follow thoſe amiable young who themſelves follow the impulſes of nature. The abſurdity of parental affection will, on the ſide of the fathers, be thoroughly eradicated, becauſe, in the ſtate recommended by St. Leon, there will be little poſſibility of aſcertaining among the youthful pupils who the fathers are. In your caſe, my friends, there can be no uncertainty; nevertheleſs, by following the inimitable precept of Rouſſeau, you may ſoon forget to whom you are mothers. Send the offspring to the hoſpitals, and let

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there be a large repoſitory of that kind near every village that abounds in boarding ſchools. The miſſes will, according to my plan, have no occaſion for that concealment which they are now obliged to obſerve. Inſtructive books from the libraries, drill ſerjeants, and dancing maſters, the theory and practice of love, may be ſtudied and exerciſed as openly in and about London, as by the ladies of Otaheite.

" But, my pupils, perfection is not to be immediately attained: our preſent buſineſs is to prepare for that high ſtate of human regeneration. Of courſe, we all renounce religion, the prejudice of the unenlightened; and we all ſeek equality; but ſome degree of influence and controul may be neceſſary in the preſent imperfect ſtate, to fit us for the total reprobation of religion, and the equalization of mankind, by mowing down

down every inequality of fortune, rank, talents, and virtue. I propofe to imitate the abfurd inftitutions of the Englifh church in one inftance. There fhall be two chief overfeers, and twenty-four overfeers of our fex, for the purpofe of changing the heretofore approved characters of women, and diffufing among them a proper contempt for religion and virtue, efpecially the fneaking virtues of modefty and chaftity. The canditates for thefe offices fhall be perfons, who, to the utmoft of their means and opportunities, have endeavoured to eradicate thefe abfurd principles of female conduct. Who may be Primate will be the firft confideration." "That can require no deliberation," was the univerfal cry. "Jemima muft be the Primate." Jemima acquiefced. "I have next to confider who fhould be my colleague. There is a perfon now engaged in exhibiting to admiration

miration the moſt noted females, who have anticipated my doctrines by ſyſtematic deviation, from the rules impoſed upon women by ariſtocratic man: her name is Mary." She was appointed colleague by acclamation. "As to the overſeers," proceeded Jemima, "they may be found among various claſſes; but chiefly the writers of ſentimental and loving novels, great repoſitories of inſtruction; governeſſes and uſhereſſes, who convey ſuch and other inciting works to their youthful charge; and alſo parents in humble circumſtances, who ſend their children to boarding-ſchools, to learn what is to them uſeleſs, and not to learn what is to them uſeful. Theſe pupils becoming totally unfit for the abſurdity of marriage, and chaſte converſe, thereby become fit for concubinage, unchaſte converſe, and the promiſcuous intercourſe which St. Leon ſo ſtrongly recommends

commends by precept ; and I am proud to ſay, I ſtill more ſtrongly recommend by both precept and example. It would be tedious, at preſent, to go over twenty-four; and the more ſo, as ſo many in this age of increaſing light, have ſuch claims, as it might be difficult to adjuſt with a due regard to equity and merit. One perſon, however, I muſt mention. Mrs. Sonnet, though not ſupreme in ability, yet has an activity and good will in the cauſe, that entitles her to high conſideration. All her novels have propoſed to decry exiſting inſtitutions, exalt the philoſophers of France, and to debaſe what is called female virtue, by an attempt to ſhew that it depends on accident, and not principle. Mrs. Egotiſt alſo, though not ſtrictly one of our votaries, yet tends to promote our intereſts. With great ſkill and ingenuity ſhe ſoftens what the unenlightened call adultery, by

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ftiling it ' the error of too fufceptible a heart ;' alfo by holding forth difobedient children as objects of praife and admiration, fhe advances our favourite doctrine of the abfurdity of filial duty: moft of her heroes and heroines uniformly and fteadily purfue, that rule of conduct which their parents ftrongly exhort them to avoid. Thus friendly to the diffolution of domeftic authority, and what the blind call duties, Mrs. Egotift is no lefs ardent to decry civil, ecclefiaftical, and political authority, to reprefent Bifhops, and rulers of every kind as wicked, and moft vehemently to reprobate the execrable and abominable conftitution, which we are obliged to fuffer in Britain. Yes, Charlotte, according to the new polity of Jemima, you muft have a mitre. There is a copartnery of either one or two old ladies, and a young one for writing novels, neither of them are profeffedly

professedly my votaries, and, indeed, are *professedly* the contrary. But there is one most inveterate foe of the new philosophy, known by the name of Common Sense, and till he can be destroyed, the new philosophy will never be fully established. Miss Twostools can bring every page of her works, and her mother about seven-eighths of hers, to bear witness of their hostility to Common Sense. Admirable in that view is the story of an old Lord, who supposes himself to have a wolf in his belly; no less admirable the many adventures of his grandson, who, to be fitted for the peerage, was committed to the care of the clerk of the parish, and met so many marvellous adventures as never did, or could happen to any human being. Mrs. and Miss Twostools are both too weak for the mitre; but for their good-will may be appointed *bell-women* to the cause."

caufe." Jemima ran over many other names, fuch as Mifs Harry Clarendon, Mifs Derwent Priory, and numberlefs others that our hero forgot. At length the meeting broke up, and many of the difciples filed off in pairs, probably to ftudy rivalry with the other fex.

Our hero did not altogether relifh this new philofophy, as the beft qualified for rendering mankind happy with their prefent thoughts and fentiments, and in the prefent condition of fociety; he thought that the fyftem of St. Leon and Jemima, admirably as it may be adapted to the circumftances and inclinations of affes, goats, or hogs, is not fo well fuited to the fituation and difpofitions of *all* men. Candour, however, obliged our hero to admit, that the parts of this fyftem were fo fkilfully harmonized, as to make a very confiftent whole, and that univerfally adopted as the authors wifhed

it would render man a moſt ſucceſsful imitator of the brute creation; and ſo far as a man would be improved by attaining the likeneſs of a beaſt, he is indebted to St. Leon and Jemima, for their benevolent intentions. This was a merit which the equitable impartiality of our hero, in thought, converſation, and writing, did not fail to aſcribe to the ſpeculative and practical philoſophy of the Political Juſtice and Rights of Woman.

From the literature which our author either purſued or eſtimated, the thread of the ſtory now requires that we ſhould return to more domeſtic and private occurrences. The intimacy between Hamilton and Hamden became ſo cloſe, that rarely a day paſſed in which the baronet did not ſpend ſeveral hours at the houſe of his friend. When the return of ſummer ſent to the country moſt perſons whoſe buſineſs and fortune could

permit abſence from town, Sir Edward ſtill continued in London. Even the autumnal ſeaſon did not call him from the metropolis, either to the relaxation of watering places, or the diverſions of the country, for both of which he had formerly ſhewn a high reliſh. It may be thought that ſo intenſe a liking for the company of a friend, as to abſorb all former predilections and purſuits, is totally inconſiſtent with nature; and that, farther, ſo frequent and long viſits muſt be prejudicial to the object of the friendſhip, by encroaching on Hamilton's time and interrupting his ſtudies. Sentiments or conduct not to be found in human nature, I truſt, make no part of this work; though if they did, and I choſe to reſt law upon mere precedent, noted authorities would not be wanting. It may alſo be ſuppoſed that diſregard to the advantage of his friend would be inconſiſtent

ſiſtent with the character which Hamden has uniformly maintained. For the ſolution of theſe difficulties, ſimple facts will ſuffice. Highly as Hamden prized the company and converſation of our hero, yet his value for it was not ſo great as to overbalance all other purſuits. His viſits, long and frequent as they were, did not interfere with the buſineſs of Hamilton.

Diſappointed in his firſt wiſh of being affianced to Maria Mortimer, the baronet long reſolved never to marry any other; but this reſolution could not prevent him from diſcovering and admiring excellence that might occur in another object. So often a viſitant in the houſe of Hamilton, he very frequently beheld the lovely Charlotte. To the charms of this young lady his admiration had done juſtice, even when his affections were engroſſed by another. The more

he converſed with her, the more he was convinced that the excellence of her mind correſponded with the beauties and graces of her face and perſon; and he conceived a very high eſteem and admiration for the ſiſter of his friend. He knew nothing of her attachment for Mortimer; and, having been abſent from town when Charlotte received the firſt impreſſions from the conduct of her lover, he had not witneſſed the dejection which it had firſt produced. Vigorous underſtanding and magnanimity, aſſiſted by a generous pride, made powerful efforts to expel from her mind all tenderneſs for the man who had ſacrificed love to ambition, and her exertions were gradually attended with ſucceſs, while ſhe ſtrove to appear much leſs concerned and affected than ſhe really was; and before Hamden's return, ſhe ſeemed to poſſeſs her wonted cheerfulneſs. Eſteem for ſo very attrac-

tive

tive a woman as Miſs Hamilton, in ſuch a heart as Hamden's, was a ſtep towards love. With a vigorous underſtanding, juſt principles, and poliſhed knowledge, which rendered her a rational companion, he, by farther acquaintance, diſcovered her to poſſeſs the refined ſentiments, taſte, ſenſibility, and faſcinating ſoftneſs which made her heart an ineſtimable treaſure to any one who could be ſo happy as to win its affections. Hamden was himſelf, in countenance and figure, equal to any man; as tall and finely proportioned as Mortimer, with features as regular; and a countenance that, indicating equal ſpirit and intelligence, expreſſed much more of feeling and tenderneſs. His manners and deportment were firm and commanding; but where ſuch qualities were requiſite in the common intercourſe of life, and eſpecially in female ſociety, they were chiefly eminent for

an engaging impreffivenefs that was almoft irrefiftible. Such foftnefs and delicacy, were it apart from the general caft and character of his mind, might appear to approach to infinuation; but combined with the penetration and ftrength of his intellect and undeviating integrity, evidently refulted from feeling and not from artifice! It was manly virtue; ftrong and fteady in its principles, in its operations mellowed by tendernefs, and relieving force by polifhed foftnefs. The attentions of Sir Edward did not pafs unperceived by Charlotte, nor altogether unfelt; fhe thought him at once a moft worthy and amiable man. She could not avoid acknowledging to herfelf, that if fhe had known Hamden as early as Mortimer, fhe muft of the two have preferred him; but as ftill fome traces of her firft love remained, fhe determined not to liften with encouragement to the addreffes

addreſſes of another, however pleaſing. The graces, virtues, accompliſhments, and increaſing aſſiduity of Hamden made ſuch progreſs in the mind of Charlotte as entirely to eradicate the revolted Mortimer; and ſhe could not avoid wiſhing that ſhe had known ſo very charming a youth two months ſooner than ſhe did. She now did more than eſteem his merit; ſhe returned his love. At length Hamden, flattering himſelf that he had made an impreſſion on the bewitching Charlotte, declared her miſtreſs of his deſtiny. Charlotte heard him with confuſion; and confeſſing a very high eſteem for his character, and that his love did honour to any woman, ſhe, with evident reluctance, told him ſhe could not be his; and here ſhe burſt into tears. Hamden employed every means that he could deviſe to ſoothe her mind. In the courſe of their interview, he wrung from

her an acknowledgment of reciprocal love; but ſtill ſhe adhered to her proteſtation, that ſhe could not accept his offer. The baronet, unable to diſcover her objection, at length reſolved to requeſt the aſſiſtance of her brother in removing her ſcruples. Informed by his friend of all that had paſſed, our hero repaired to his ſiſter; and, after a long converſation, he, from her affection and confidence, learned her objection to an union with a man whoſe paſſion ſhe requited. Charlotte had conceived a notion that a young woman not only ſhould beſtow with her hand her heart, but alſo a heart that never had felt love for another. This romantic refinement of ſentiment, her underſtanding, acute and powerful as it was, could not conquer. Prizing Sir Edward ſo very highly, ſhe fancied that her affections, though now devoted to him, yet having once

once been Mortimer's, were unworthy of his acceptance. Her brother at firſt ridiculed this notion, but finding it too deep and ſerious to bear a ludicrous expoſure, he argued gravely, clearly, and forcibly on the ſubject; and concluded with telling her that her ſituation in that reſpect reſembled her lover's. Each had cheriſhed other attachments; but, as the objects were out of their reach, and out of their hearts, and they were now the votaries of mutual love, there was no reaſonable obſtruction to her compliance with the wiſhes of ſo amiable a man. Though Charlotte did not yield to this reaſoning, Hamilton ſaw that it was not without impreſſion. Maria ſeconded the inſtances of her huſband; ſtill, however, they did not conquer; but they did not deſpair that the victory would be obtained, if not by the auxiliaries, by the commander in chief himſelf. Sir Edward, informed of the ground of defence

which Charlotte had taken, exerted his talents and ſkill with ſo much dexterity as at length to prove ſucceſsful. Mrs. Hamilton, ſenior, who was now on a viſit to her father, was ſent for expreſs; and her brother was requeſted to accompany her, and to perform the ceremony; but the old gentleman declared that he himſelf ſhould undertake that office for his grand-daughter, as he had done for his grand-ſon. His ſon and daughter would have diſſuaded him from encountering a journey in the winter ſeaſon, but the old gentleman replied, he was no more afraid of the eighty-third winter than any of its predeceſſors. He accordingly accompanied them to town, and had the pleaſure of embracing his great grand-ſon, now a fine child almoſt a year old. In a few days after his arrival the nuptials were celebrated, and Charlotte Hamilton became Lady Hamden.

CHAP. V.

A FEW weeks after the event with which we closed the preceding chapter, letters arrived from Mr. Hamilton, of Etterick, containing various articles of intelligence; which, that we may introduce in proper connection to our readers, it is necessary to revert to a character of considerable notoriety in these memoirs, the methodistical preacher and moral practitioner, Mr. Roger O'Rourke. This personage having, as we have already recorded, departed from Tetbury in company with a silver tankard belonging to the landlord, and some other articles, which his dexterity had picked up from his entertainers at the

love feaſt, departed from public roads, and ſkulked about the foreſt of Dean for ſeveral days; but having there ſeen a woodman, whom he recollected to have met at Glouceſter, and fearing to be traced, he again croſſed the country into Wiltſhire. On Cherril Downs he came up with a ſolitary lady; and was the identical perſon who robbed and frightened Mrs. Raymond. He had ſeen the travellers; and, though at a diſtance, recognized the air and figure of Hamilton: therefore he made the beſt of his way. Not doubting that a hue and cry would be immediately raiſed after him, he, with extraordinary expedition, made his way to Dorſetſhire; thence, turning to the right, he proceeded into North Devon, and arrived at Biddeford. There he found a veſſel about to depart for St. David's, in Wales; and, having no want of money, took his paſſage for that port; whence

whence he hoped to find fome convey-ance to Cork or Waterford, where he expected to be fafe from the purfuit of the Englifh laws; and fhould be alfo at a great diftance from Dundalk, and other fcenes of his former paftimes in the north. In a fhort time, he procured a conveyance, reached Cork, tried his hand at methodifm, but found the men of Munfter little difpofed to leave their favourite popery for any other theory: as he could not convert them to his theology, his next beft project was to convert himfelf to their theology. He declared himfelf a catholic, ready and willing to become an united Irifhman; or to join in whatever was going for-ward. He profeffed he had been brought up to the catholic church; treated the fathers of that perfuafion with plenty of whifky, merry jokes, and other gratifications agreeable to their

reve-

reverences; being enabled to live freely and expenſively by the liberality of a rich quaker's widow: her the ſpirit moved to yearn unto him as one that ſhe wiſhed to make her lord and maſter, as ſoon as *three* months of mourning ſhould be expired; and, during the remaining *two and a half*, ſhe admitted him to all the privileges of a huſband, except the name. O'Rourke would have willingly turned quaker, or any thing elſe, for the lady's fortune; but, afraid that his former marriage might be diſcovered, before the time ſtipulated by Mrs. Stiffrump, he bethought himſelf of chouſing her of her property without any legal contract; and, turning prieſt to enjoy the ſpoils among the fair penitents who, he preſumed, would flock to his confeſſional, having been always eminent for his influence among the female votaries of any religion that he happened

for

for the time to profefs. He won fo much upon the holy fathers, that in a month he was admitted one of their order; but not before he had the misfortune to difcover that the widow poffeffed only the income of her late hufband's property; the reverfion being fecured to his relations. Though this revenue was confiderable, yet it was far fhort of the profufion of O'Rourke: the lady's current cafh was exhaufted; and her lover, finding fhe could not by anticipation receive a fupply, took with him her laft twenty pounds, a gold watch, and other trinkets, and without any farther ceremony left her for ever. He now officiated as a prieft, and traverfed the country, confeffing the women; and exhorting the men to what he called the emancipation of Ireland. At length, he vifited Dublin, and money falling fhort, devifed various fchemes for levying con-

tributions among ſaints and other ſinners. Finding no want of methodiſts in the metropolis of Ireland, which that, as well as other follies of Britain, fail not to viſit, he privately profeſſed himſelf a methodiſt believer, and publicly a popiſh prieſt; through the two he earned a tolerable livelihood. He now became acquainted with a noted courtezan, who was at great pains to win ſuch a lover, becauſe ſhe thought her other gallants might by his ſtrength and ſize be overawed to ſuch contributions as ſhe might chuſe to require. She ſucceeded with Roger, and became ſo completely miſtreſs over him, that he ran into extravagant expences. Our preacher had not regularly followed the occupation of viſiting the highways; but he had not let his arms entirely ruſt for want of practice. At Cork, in the country, and in Dublin, he had repeatedly collected

ſupplies

fupplies for preffing exigencies; but was too fond of eafe and pleafure to take to that avocation, unlefs when he was run out of money.

In the prefent preffure he fet off in a carter's frock late in the evening, for an alley near a noted gaming-houfe. There he watched until he faw a gentleman come out alone, and at the turning of a corner he prefented a piftol; the other made fome refiftance, but was over-powered, and forced to deliver his money. O'Rourke having accomplifhed his purpofe, without taking any precautions to prevent purfuit, was haftening away, when a ferjeant and a party came up on their way to relieve guard; the robber was running off, the gentleman gave the alarm, the foldiers purfued, the preacher, in his hurry, ftumbled over a poft, and being dafhed on the pavement, lay for fome time ftunned. In fuch cir-

cumftances

MAHARAJA SERFOGI'S SAR

cumſtances he was ſecured, pinioned, and carried to the guard-houſe, where a banker's book, with the name of the gentleman, who was well-known to the ſoldiers, written on the outſide, was found on him, and alſo a purſe, which the gentleman immediately identified. The next morning he was carried before a juſtice, and the evidence being ſo unqueſtionable, he was committed for trial: the ſeſſions being then ſitting, he in a few days was tried, condemned, and the following week hanged, without expreſſing any ſign of penitence; and ſo ended the mortal peregrinations of the methodiſtical apoſtle, Roger O'Rourke. The impartial reader, I doubt not will allow, that the cataſtrophe of this miſſionary naturally reſulted from his united faith and practice; and that whoever conceives faith to ſuperſede the neceſſity of moral virtue, and to permit the unbounded

gratification

gratification of defires; and acting confiftently with fuch doctrines, allows unlimited indulgence to his paffions, takes one of the moft direct roads to the gallows. There was faid to be a difpute, whether the preacher died a methodift or a Roman. This point I have never been able to afcertain, and, indeed, regard it of no more confequence of what religious profeffion a hardened villain dies, than whether the hypocrite Cantwell, the difciple of methodifm, or the hypocrite Tartuffe, the difciple of Romanifm, the more deferved to be hanged, when *both* deferved it fo incontrovertibly.

Having conducted the hufband to his end, we muft now pafs over to Scotland to vifit his wife. Ever fince her return from England, the daughter of Ettrick had been in a ftate of dejection and defpondency, from the abfence and mif-

conduct of her husband, which last did not fail to reach her ears down to his adventures at Tetbury. Several months after her arrival at her father's house, she lost her only child; and the addition of this new grief, joined with the former in throwing her into a consumption, from which it was soon foreseen she would never recover. A person from Selkirk was in Dublin, between the trial and execution of O'Rourke, and found means to see him in the condemned hold, and thereby to be assured that he was the identical son-in-law of the laird of Etterick; he also learned many particulars of his late history, from his fellow-convicts and the turnkeys, to whom the preacher most frankly communicated his principal exploits. In too great eagerness to communicate dismal news, the Selkirk man wrote to the laird a minute and circumstantial account of O'Rourke's

O'Rourke's laſt adventures; not forgetting the impenitent obduracy with which he braved eternity. When this letter arrived, the old gentleman was taking his afternoon glaſs, in his daughter's apartment, while ſhe, in the laſt ſtage of weakneſs, ſought ſome relief from the uniformity of the ſick bed, by reclining in an eaſy chair. Her father read the letter, and having ſeen its reſult, fell back on his ſeat without ſenſe or motion. Having rung for ſervants, to afford her parent that aſſiſtance which ſhe was unable to give herſelf, ſhe ſnatched up the letter by which he was ſo grievouſly affected, and ſoon found that ſhe was much more intimately and fatally concerned. Profligate ruffian as he was, ſhe deplored him not as an abandoned miſcreant, but as the huſband whom ſhe had ſo tenderly loved. On her deeper grief, the ſhock was leſs inſtantaneouſly violent than on her

her father. She, with determined calmness, desired to be carried to bed; the physician not to be sent for, but the clergyman to be fetched immediately. The first order was disobeyed, but the second was directly executed. The Doctor announced to the father, now recovered to sorrow, that the dissolution of his child was inevitable; that he, and with him the whole faculty, could do no more. The clergyman, whom she had daily consulted during the progress of her malady, on what now concerned her much nearer than life, declared to her father, that since it was evidently the will of Providence she should be withdrawn from this vale of tears, never did he find a woman or man more thoroughly prepared by genuine christianity, for undergoing the awefulchange. She languished out that evening, and a part of the following day, and, without a struggle, at

three in the afternoon, ſhe breathed her laſt; a premature and fatal victim to the exceſs of parental indulgence, which at ſo youthful an age ſuffered her to follow her girliſh fancy,, and to become the wife of a man whoſe merits they had never known, and had much reaſon to doubt.

As a father, Etterick was tenderly afflicted by the death of his daughter, and in ſuch melancholy circumſtances. Nevertheleſs, when the firſt ſhock being over, allowed time and opportunity for reflexion, he could not help acknowledging to himſelf, and to his friends, the clergyman and phyſician, that he had very ſtrong grounds of conſolation. At firſt he had been hurried and ſurprized to conſent to the marriage of his child, rather than perſuaded and induced, and during many years had regarded the connection with abhorrence. The family of

of Etterick had been always diftinguifhed for honour and reputation, and its prefent reprefentative had a very high idea of its dignity. Kind and affectionate he had loved his grandchild, but could not help repining, that the child of fuch a mifcreant eventually was to be proprietor of Etterick. His nephew, Hamilton, he loved and admired to adoration; and now would fometimes dwell on the elevation of the houfe of Etterick, when William fhould be its head: and the fourth day after Mrs. O'Rourke's deceafe, when the clergyman was adminiftering the foothing comforts of religion, the laird heard him with the moft profound gravity, and after fome ceffation, afked if there was not a talk about a vacancy in the county: "Willie, now that he is heir of Etterick, I think might ftand a good chance; and if he were in parliament, would be an extraordinary

honour

honour to our family." The clergyman ſaw that the laird, though he ſorrowed, did not ſorrow like thoſe without hope.

At the deſire of the old gentleman, he wrote to Hamilton an account of theſe events, and urged him to loſe no time in repairing to Scotland. The laird was willing and ready to reſign to him three-fourths of the eſtate and perſonal property. The former, by the riſe of rents, was now upwards of ſix thouſand a-year; the latter, by the œconomy of Etterick, added to the fortune of the Sourkrouts, was at leaſt forty thouſand pounds. This was the ſubſtance of the letter that was ſent to our hero.

The morning on which it arrived in London, Hamilton received, by appointment, a bookſeller, who was come to make a bargain with him, concerning a work of three volumes 8vo. The bookſeller was ſtrictly honeſt, but very

hard. Hamilton knowing his own powers and fame, demanded four hundred pounds per volume: the other began with offering two hundred and fifty; and as Hamilton would not hear of this proposal, rose to three hundred; still the author would not bend. The bookseller knowing Hamilton did not depend entirely on his efforts, and that it was his own interest to advance in his offer, even to Hamilton's demands, said— "Mr. Hamilton, you are a liberal gentleman, as well as an able writer, do come down somewhat; now let us split the difference." Hamilton mused, and appeared to the other not unlikely to yield, when a servant entering, delivered him a letter with a black seal, and the Selkirk post mark. Requesting his visitor's permission to peruse the epistle, he opened it, and was evidently much affected by the contents. After several

minutes

minutes of ſilence, and thoughtfulneſs, he at length ſaid, "Well, Sir, you have been my chief employer, were the firſt who highly appreciated my productions, and you have paid me well and regularly, I ſhall execute for you the work you propoſe; I ſhall not ſplit the difference with you; you ſhall have the performance at three hundred pounds per volume." The other, after heartily thanking him for his liberality, appeared curious to know what connection it had with the letter. Our hero, in general, explained the change that had taken place; but his determination to finiſh the work, for the ſake of an employer, by whom he had been always handſomely treated. The bookſeller taking his leave, Maria, who knew nothing of the intelligence from Scotland, came to the ſtudy, and aſked how he had ſettled with the bookſeller: he mentioned the terms.—"I

 thought,"

thought," ſhe ſaid, " you were reſolved to have four hundred pounds."—" I was," he replied, " but I changed my mind; for a reaſon that I ſhall by and by explain to you, and of which my dear Maria will approve."—" That," ſhe replied, " I am convinced I ſhall. How long a time do you think the work will require?"—" A year and a half may finiſh it, and leave me time for periodical labours. Laſt year our income, beſides our own four hundred, was ſix hundred, and this year it will be more." —" Yes," ſaid Maria, " it was in all a thouſand, and I dare ſay will be twelve hundred; and if we cannot be happy on ſuch a revenue, with our growing proſpects from my uncle, and your grandfather and uncle Wentbridge, we ſhould be diſſatisfied with the fortunes of my brother and Louiſa, your ſiſter and Sir Edward Hambden."—" It is not im-

poſſible," ſaid our hero, " but we may have to try a ſimilar experiment, to aſcertain our content or diſcontent. I have no doubt but our fortune will very ſoon ſurpaſs your brother's, and be in a fair way of equalling Sir Edward's." Maria ſtared. " I don't underſtand you, my dear, what do you mean? you are certainly caſtle-building."—" The caſtle is already built; and now, Maria, I have a very important piece of intelligence to communicate to you." He accordingly explained to her the information he had juſt received, and gave her the letter to peruſe.

To pretend that Maria was ſo exalted and diſintereſted, as to grieve at the death of a couſin, who was not peculiarly engaging, with whom ſhe was on no terms of friendſhip, beyond mere civility and attention; when the departure of that couſin made her huſband poſſeſſor of ſix

thoufand a year, and heir to two thoufand more, would be to pretend that this Maria was totally different from all other Marias in their fober fenfes. William and fhe very tenderly congratulated each other, and rang for their two children. The little boy, juft entered the third year of his age, was returned from feeing the foldiers exercife, and, in a minute, they heard him in the paffage, calling as well as he could, "Right, right," and he entered in a marching ftep, with his gun fhouldered, and fixed bayonet. He advanced to charge upon his father, but inftead of parrying, as ufual, and playing with the child, the father eagerly fnatching him in his arms, and congratulated him on the providential change: his infant fifter being brought by the fervant, he folemnly prayed to Heaven that his children might prove worthy of the fituation which they were now deftined

to fill in ſociety ; that little Maria might reſemble her charming and eſtimable mother ; and that Charles might do honour to the family which he would eventually repreſent. When the parents had given vent to their affections, and recovered themſelves, Hamilton ſet out to inform his mother of the ſtate of affairs, and to aſſure her, that her income ſhould riſe in proportion to his. It is needleſs to ſay, the mother heartily rejoiced at this momentous change in the ſituation of her adored ſon ; but ſhe immediately declared that ſhe would receive no addition to her revenue, which was fully adequate to her wants and habits of life. Hamilton reſolved to conquer in this point, but without conteſting it at preſent. His mother ſaid, ſhe ſuppoſed he would write to her father and brother immediately ; but he replied, he would deliver them the intelligence himſelf, hav-

ing only to ſee Sir Edward, and ſet off poſt that afternoon for Etterick. He took her promiſe to be with Maria till his return, repaired to the Baronet's, who was proudly joyful to find that ſuch a connection and friend, was now about to move in a ſphere which he was ſo well qualified to adorn. Returning to his houſe he took a haſty dinner with Maria, and ſet off at ſix o'clock; the next evening he reached Dr. Wentbridge's, at Weatherby, juſt as his father and he were ſitting down to an early ſupper, and removed their ſurprize at his journey, by joy for its cauſe. He was prevailed on to take a few hours' ſleep, and departing with the dawn of July, he, about the ſame time the following morning, arrived at the manſion of his anceſtors. He found the old gentleman extremely anxious for his arrival: the funeral had been deferred, until Hamilton coming, ſhould

officiate

officiate as chief mourner; his uncle finding himſelf totally incapable of that taſk: it was now fixed for two days after. The old gentleman, who was very eager to inveſt his nephew with the bulk of his property, and the direction of his affairs, had a deed ready drawn up, conformable to what had been written to his nephew; and it was that very day properly executed. A few days after the interment, the old gentleman called together his tenants to his hall, and publicly announced his nephew as their landlord. The farmers greatly rejoiced at events which entirely relieved them from the apprehenſions of having for their laird a profligate unprincipled adventurer; and though they did not know much of the new proprietor, they had heard enough of him to entertain a very high opinion of him; and this was greatly increaſed by his frank and engaging manners, and the graces of his

face and figure. Of his perſon, exquiſitely as it was formed, many of them chiefly admired the heighth and ſtrength; and as they went home, well-primed with ale and whiſkey, they declared that the *deevil a ſtouter, better-bigged man* than their young laird, would enter the *ſhire town*, or even walk at the croſs of *Embro'*; and from a Scottiſh peaſant this was a very high eulogium.

The old gentleman expreſſed an ardent deſire, that Maria and the children would make Etterick their ſummer reſidence; and alſo prevail on his niece, Lady Hambden, with her huſband and mother, to join the party. Hamilton undertook to have this wiſh accompliſhed; and having finiſhed all the buſineſs that was immediately preſſing, he himſelf went ſouth to conduct his family and friends. Early in September they arrived, and were ſo pleaſed with the

the autumnal amuſements and feſtivities, and above all, the hoſpitality and kindneſs of the "land of cakes," that November terminated, before Sir Edward and Lady Hambden returned with young Mortimer and Louiſa, who, a month before, had arrived at Etterick houſe. They left the old laird recovered from his grief, and delighted with the wife and children of his nephew, while William himſelf he idolized. At the Michaelmas county court, it became publicly known that the member for the ſhire intended ſpeedily to vacate his ſeat. Among the freeholders, young Mr. Hamilton of Etterick, was immediately mentioned, as a gentleman from his ſituation in the country, one of the fitteſt that could be their repreſentative; and from his abilities, acquirements, and accompliſhments, qualified to reflect luſtre on his conſtituents. The propoſition was favourably

 received,

received, and Hamilton was induced to declare himſelf candidate. There was no oppoſition, and the election took place a few days before Sir Edward's departure. As parliament that ſeaſon was not to meet till the end of January, our hero, with his family and mother, paſſed the Chriſtmas holidays at Etterick; and ſoon after new year's day, ſet off for London, whither his uncle alſo accompanied them. On their way viſiting the venerable old vicar, who was now at Brotherton parſonage, accompanied by his dutiful and attentive ſon, the aged patriarch propoſed again to reviſit London. His friends, though ſomewhat apprehenſive of ſuch a journey to his age, yet truſted, that by eaſy ſtages, and by every poſſible attention to his accommodation, he might accompliſh the expedition without inconvenience. The old clergyman, by the expreſs ſtipulation of his

his great grandſon, little Hamilton, was to travel in the ſame carriage with that young ſoldier, with whom he was a mighty favourite. Old Maxwell was ſtill alive, and delighted with little Charles, who bore a very ſtriking reſemblance to his grandfather, General Hamilton; and to his father, whom Maxwell prized no leſs highly, and more highly he could prize no man, than that gallant officer whom he had firſt taught the military exerciſe, and afterwards ſheltered under diſaſter. The old man himſelf was in eaſy circumſtances, but our Hamilton made particular enquiry concerning his relations, reſolving and promiſing to uſe his influence and exertions for their benefit.

For ſome weeks after he took his ſeat Hamilton was ſilent; but a grand queſtion ariſing which he thoroughly knew, he could not forbear ſpeaking on the

ſide

ſide of the conſtitution and ſocial order. His ſpeech aſtoniſhed not only perſons who were ſtrangers to the powers of Hamilton, but even his intimate friends; and Sir Edward Hambden declared, that the genius of Hamilton roſe with the theatre on which it was exerted. The information and reaſoning were ſuch as he expected; but the energetic and impreſſive eloquence he could not have looked for, from even a man of eminent abilities, who was not accuſtomed to parliamentary exhibitions. Among the audience in the gallery was the old laird, who had a great pleaſure in reſorting to the houſe, not for the eloquence he might hear there, but for ſeeing his nephew among the members. He had no preconception that William was to open on this occaſion, and was actually engaged in a whiſpering converſation with one of the reporters, who was the ſon of a far-

mer

mer on his eftate, when the voice of his nephew reached his ears, and with the warmeft eagernefs he called out, fo as to be heard through moft of the gallery, "*It is our ain Willie.*" His friend whifpered him—"Pray do not fpeak fo loud, you may interrupt your nephew."—"*Vara weel Sandy, I'll be as quiet as a moofe.* But Willie is too quiet himfelf, I wifh he would fpeak better *oot*: the *booy* is *blate* at firft." William having for fome time fpoken in that low tone of voice, and modeft humility of manner, which refults from ingenuous fenfibility, on a firft appearance before the ableft affembly in the world, at length acquired more firmnefs, and, as he warmed, entered into all the merit and intereft of his fubject. With the powers of his underftanding, and the movements of his heart, his voice, tones, and geftures, and, above all, his eyes, were in thorough

unifon.

unison. All was energy, intereſt, and impreſſion. A dead ſtillneſs ruled over the houſe, as if a Sheridan, Fox, or a Pitt, had been ſpeaking; not a whiſper was heard, except low breathings of admiration. *One* indeed would whiſper to his neighbour, "*Vara weel laad.*" Hamilton having finiſhed, the chief orators of both parties vied with each other, in beſtowing praiſes on this exhibition of the young member. The queſtion being adjourned, our hero went to the lobby, to look for his uncle, and juſt as he met him, found himſelf ſurrounded by gentlemen, congratulating him on the fame he had eſtabliſhed at the very outſet of his parliamentary career. Mr. Dundas, to whom our hero was known, came to him, with Mr. Pitt, who teſtified the higheſt admiration of the union of knowledge, philoſophy, and eloquence. "Happy I am," ſaid he, "Mr. Hamilton,

milton, that our cauſe has received ſuch a powerful acceſſion; and that when this venerable ſage (turning to a gentleman near him) is about to withdraw from parliament, a youth enters, who has adopted his ſentiments and principles, and who ſo powerfully treads in the ſteps of him, who firſt expoſed the genuine nature of the revolutionary ſyſtem." The ſenator announced, by this deſcription, graſping the hand of our hero, ſaid, " I ſtill have hopes of the ſalvation of my country; our youth are not all miſled by deſtructive theory. Sir, your powers are extraordinary, and are exerted for your king and country, when ſuch exertions are wanted. You have read much, and reflected more; your deductions are juſt as they are forcible; your feelings are the feelings of loyal and patriotic virtue; the brilliancy of your eloquence is ſurpaſſed only by its depth and its truth. Of oratory,

tory, as well as writing, you demonstrate that the principle and source is wisdom.

"Sapere bene *dicendi* principium et fons."

Our hero modestly replied, "Having read, sir, Aristotle and Bacon, Cicero and Burke, and endeavoured to imbibe lessons and sentiments, which I so much admired, I am naturally a friend to mixed government, modified and rational liberty, and an enemy to uncontrouled licence." Burke again squeezing his hand—"You must, Mr. Hamilton, gratify an old man, by helping me to pass the Easter holidays; I shall learn your address, and pay you my respects, in hopes of making our arrangements for Beaconsfield." Messrs. Fox and Sheridan paid our hero high compliments. Mr. Fox said, "*Cum talis sis utinam noster esses.*" Burke, who had moved a little aside, hearing this wish, said aloud,

"*Dii*

" *Dii avertite omen.*" About this time, a very loud fobbing was heard from a corner. The humanity of Burke directed him to the place, and he found the fobbing iffued from an elderly gentleman. In a foothing voice, he begged to know if he could give any affiftance, or alleviate his grief? — " It is not g-r-i-e-f," replied the other, " it is j-o-y." When our hero coming up, addreffed the gentleman by the appellation of uncle, Burke immediately comprehended the cafe, and was very much amufed and interefted. He congratulated the uncle on the nephew, and included him in the invitation to Beaconsfield.

The uncle and nephew having gone home, the laird finding the old clergyman and his fon, and both the Mrs. Hamiltons waiting for them in the fupper-room, called out with great emotion,

" *I pity*

"*I pity you aw, nane of ye half kenns Willie; nay, for that matter, I did not half kenn him myfel.*" Hamilton fmiled. "What is the matter, uncle?" faid Maria.—"Willie made a fpeech! Willie made a fpeech!" and he ftrutted through the room: "if you want to *ken* what kind of fpeech it was, afk Mr. *Pett* and Mr. Dundas, the *faaviours* of their country; and afk Mr. Burke, that fpoke up for the gentry and dignity of the country, againft rapfcallions: he has *inveeted* Willie and me to his country *hoofe*. Nay, even Mr. Fox, though I fufpect he is one of them as they call Foxites, or democrats, or jacobins, which they tell me is all *ane*, he praifed Willie, and faid fomething in *laatin* to him; but you may be all *prood* of Willie." Sir Edward Hambden now arriving, gave the company a full explanation of what they had, in a confiderable degree underftood,

even from the report of the laird; and placed the whole ſpeech before them, to their great admiration and delight. Our hero ſaid very little, except merely recti-fying his uncle's miſtake about Foxites. Neither they, nor their leaders, he be-lieved were democrats; and he was ſtill more convinced they were not jacobins, though ſome parts of their conduct had a tendency to promote democratical prin-ciples and practices.

Our hero having thus laid the founda-tion of parliamentary fame, perſevered in his career, and was always moſt diſtin-guiſhed on the moſt arduous ſubjects. He was careſſed and courted by the chief men of the land, preſented, with his lady, to their Majeſties, and both received with the moſt benignant complacency. He had now, though only twenty-nine, reached a high elevation of fortune, and a much higher elevation of honour.

A rank

A rank in ſociety, which he had only faintly hoped to attain in the decline of years, he now realized in the youthful vigour of life. His beloved Maria was placed in that ſphere, which ſhe was ſo well fitted to adorn, and to which it had been the utmoſt ambition of his love that ſhe might be raiſed. To his growing family, he ſaw the certainty of opulence and diſtinction, and reſolved to make it his chief care, that the underſtandings and hearts of his children, ſhould be adequate to their fortunes. He ſaw his friends proſperous and happy around him, and his abſent brother, for profeſſional talents and enterprize, was promoted to command a frigate; while his uncle, Captain Wentbridge, who had intended to divide a conſiderable property among the children of his ſiſter, with a mere honorary legacy to his brother, who required or wanted no pecuniary ad-

dition, now deſtined his ſecond nephew his heir, as both Hamilton and Lady Hambden had ſo very ample proviſions. Our hero prevailed on his mother, to accept of as much addition to her income, as could afford her the comfort of a carriage. He himſelf perſevered with his literary engagements, and notwithſtanding his parliamentary occupations, completed them within the ſpecified time. Beſides the nine hundred pounds for the three volumes, he had to receive about one hundred and fifty pounds of a balance on other accounts. As he now had no occaſion to earn profits from literary labours, he reſolved to apply the proceeds to a purpoſe of the higheſt conſequence to the advancement of literature. He preſented the ſum, in all a thouſand guineas, to that WISE AND BENEFICIAL INSTITUTION—THE LITERARY FUND. Placed in ſuch

hands,

hands, he knew it would be employed with combined benignity and discrimination; and that when enlightened dispensers of bounty administer relief, they so model the donation and mode, as to alleviate distress without wounding ingenuous sensibility.

The good fortune of Hamilton was pleasing to many of his acquaintances, and to all his ABLE literary associates. These trusting to their own efforts and fame, had no motives for repining at the success of another. But a considerable number of *professed* votaries of literature were enraged at his prosperity, though not ill-pleased that it withdrew him from a field, in which they had the folly to look on him as a competitor. Of those who were the most violently provoked against that Providence that elevated Hamilton, the most incessantly querulous, and furiously acrimonious, was poor

Doctor

Doctor Dicky Scribble, who was now at as great pains to vilify the parliamentary exhibitions of Hamilton, as he formerly had been to revile his literary works. This virulence Dicky poured out in the midst of warm professions of friendship. Hence many may suppose, that Dicky Scribble is a very faithless and bad man. He is not so naturally; he is only so from the accident of situation. *Scribble is a bad man, because he is a bad writer*; he pours out calumny, not against all, for all do not interfere with him; but against all writers or intellectual labourers of growing or established reputation. He calls on them "with no friendly voice, but to tell them in his darkness how he hates their light." Poor Dicky not only supposes himself to have *common sense*, and that is *straining hypothesis much too far*, but in an infatuation of self-conceit, bordering upon insanity, fancies himself to be above ordinary mediocrity; and,

 asto-

astonishing to say, even dreams he is a man of genius; a notion that proves the justness of one of Swift's observations— "That there is no proposition so absurd, but that it will be believed by some of mankind." The Doctor is the more enraged against Hamilton, because he is enraged against his own situation. The world in general, or at least that part of it which happens to know any thing of Scribble and his writings, have unfortunately found out that he is a mere plodding literary blockhead. The booksellers know this opinion, and none of them now give him any employment, except one or two, who have some compassion on him, since they conceived him in his labours an indefatigable drudge. They allow him something for his subsistence, from the same generous motives which induce a liberal farmer to allow to his *exhausted donkies*, the run of some of his poorer fields, and an ass can feed very

very comfortably on thiſtles. Dicky is at preſent occupied in writing a treatiſe, to prove that neither Pitt nor Fox, have any more than common abilities; and that both are deplorably deficient in eloquence.

Billy Nincompoop, of the Gallimatia Preſs, ſtill employs Scribble in the novel line; but as there is ſaid to be a great want of work among milliners, from the hardneſs of the times, in the journey-women Dicky will find formidable rivals. Nincompoop, I am credibly informed, has two hundred and fifty new romances juſt a-coming.

The huſband of the worthy friend at Brighton, of a gay Counteſs, ſtill goes on in his former and manifold occupations; and it is confidently aſſerted, is now as upright an honeſt man, as ever he was ſince he came to the years of maturity. His wife is equally diſpoſed to accommodate viſitors, either in perſon or by

proxy: of latter years, proxy has been the principal mode.

The Counteſs of Cockatrice, trained up to a certain courſe in her youth, when old has not deviated. In her grand climacteric, her objects and purſuits are the ſame, as in the charming minor climacteric of her teens. Her worthy vaſſal, Mrs. Dicky, ſtill follows lords and ladies; but as ſhe rather gets old, and leſs active, her influence decreaſes apace.—Lord Bayleaf was, ſome months ago, reported to be on the brink of eternity; but it was found that he ſtill ſtuck faſt by his very old friend Time. It is ſaid, a ſplendid epitaph was prepared for his tomb; that the inſcription recites the years he has lived upon earth, the extent of his poſſeſſions, his opportunities of doing good, and the good that he has done, concluding with a text, happily deſcriptive of the rewards that await the devout and benevolent—" Thy prayers and

and thine alms ſhall go before thee, as memorials to the throne of God." What a multiplicity of ſuch teſtimonies may this pious and generous man, in looking back on his well-ſpent life, expect to hail his arrival in the regions of bliſs!

Captain Mortimer, worn out by infirmities more than age, has retired from actual ſervice; but ſtill likes the neighbourhood of his favourite element. He has diſpoſed of his houſe, on the coaſt of Suſſex, there being nothing intereſting, he obſerves, either about Brighton or Worthing, where you hardly ever ſee a ſhip, unleſs one or two from Shoreham dock, and theſe only ſmall craft. Ramſgate he tried, and allowed that the proſpect of the Downs was moſt charming to any one, who had never ſeen Plymouth Sound or Spithead. At length he fixed his reſidence in the ſlope of Portſdown hill, whence, from his windows, he can deſcry and reckon the ſhips at Spithead

 and

and St. Helen's. His bed-room, in a high part of the houſe, commands the ſame proſpect; and his old ſervant, Ben Reef, enters his room every morning at ſeven (if it be day-light), to place the teleſcope between the bed and the window, that without riſing earlier than nine, his now uſual hour, he may aſcertain departures and arrivals. Fondly attached to the memory of his glorious profeſſion, to which he was himſelf a diſtinguiſhed honour, he, nevertheleſs, pays due regard to the various duties of ſocial life; and Hampſhire contains not a more hoſpitable and friendly man; a more benignant and generous benefactor; a more bountiful ſupporter of the poor, than this gallant veteran, who having employed his active life, in ſerving his king and country, now unqualified for ſuch efforts, employs the ſame ardour in benefiting his fellow-ſubjects and countrymen. Such is our veteran ſeaman. Our hero, and

all his friends, uſe every effort in their power, to ſhew their love and reſpect for ſuch a valuable character.

His brother, 'Squire Mortimer, though two years older, and not originally ſtronger in conſtitution, yet never having had ſuch hardſhips to encounter, is, at ſixty-ſeven, hale and vigorous, and reſides upon his eſtate. He is ſtill very aſſiduous in agricultural purſuits, and has greatly improved his eſtate. His ſon John poſſeſſes the eſtate of his wife, who has brought him ſeveral children. She lately loſt her mother. In 1796, Mortimer having a borough at command, came into parliament, and makes a conſiderable figure, though ſcarcely equal to Sir Edward Hambden, and much inferior to Hamilton.

The venerable old Mr. Wentbridge lived to the great age of eighty-eight, and died in the moſt tranquil reſignation, leaving his property equally divided

between his three children. His fecond fon, the Captain, followed him in about fix months, bequeathing thirty thoufand pounds to his maritime nephew, one thoufand each for a ring to his brother, his fifter, Lady Hambden, and our hero; and dividing his patrimonial two thoufand between his brother and fifter. Within the year he was followed by his brother, who left to his fifter both his father's and brother's bequefts. A landed property of five hundred a year he left to his elder nephew, burdened with a jointure of two hundred and fifty pounds a year to his fifter; he left five thoufand pounds each to Captain Hamilton and Lady Hambden.

The old laird of Etterick furvived his daughter near fix years, and confeffed he was much more comfortable now, than ever he had been fince he was a bachelor. He rarely fpoke of the Sourkrouts, either mother or daughter; and feeing

the happineſs of William and Maria, Hambden and Charlotte, and contraſting theſe ladies with his mother-in-law and wife, he thought he muſt have been wrong in his original notion, that the ſupreme object in marriage is a *well-tochered laſs*. Even his daughter, he could not call to mind, without pain and humiliation; and therefore called her to mind as little as poſſible. Often he told his old friend, the parſon, that Providence ordered every thing for the beſt. The old gentleman accompanied his nephew to viſit Mr. Burke, whoſe aſtoniſhing powers, as verſatile as gigantic, met the nephew on all the depths of learning and philoſophy, and in all the details and principles of exiſting politics; met his uncle on ſpring wheat, barley, and horſe beans; on the different operations and effects of turnips and hay in fattening cattle; and treated theſe ſubjects with a minuteneſs and circumſtantiality, which hardly

hardly any hind could equal; and ſurpaſſed the laird himſelf, though one of the beſt farmers in Scotland. When alone with his nephew, the uncle declared, he did not believe there was a more ſenſible man in the world. "He might give a leſſon to Andrew Peebles our *grieve* (land-bailiff), who has not his match in *aw* Tweedle, the Foreſt, or Tiviotdale." Etterick, ſome years after, expreſſed deep regret for the death of his Beaconsfield hoſt; the beſt farmer, he ſaid, with whom he had ever converſed. The old gentleman himſelf, within two years after, departed this life; and the Scottiſh rents having ſtill rapidly riſen, the whole property exceeded ten thouſand a-year.

Sir Edward and Lady Hambden had a ſon and heir, born ſoon after Hamilton's firſt exhibition in parliament; and ſeveral ſons and daughters ſince that time. For the laſt three years, neither

Sir

Sir Edward nor Hamilton have taken any ſhare in the parties of the times; they conſcientiouſly ſupport every meaſure which they think calculated for the good of the country, and in their reſpective ſpheres of moral influence, have, ſince the commencement of the war, been extremely active, in inſpiriting and invigorating military energy, and in diſciplining the corps which they reſpectively command. They both retain a high veneration for Mr. Pitt, and are on the moſt friendly terms with the preſent miniſters. Lady Hambden, reflecting on her firſt and her laſt predilection, though ſhe entertains a high reſpect for the talents and character of Mortimer, is nevertheleſs convinced, that Hambden is much better fitted for communicating domeſtic happineſs to a woman of her caſt and diſpoſitions.

Sir Edward's ſiſter, Mrs. Raymond, is thoroughly reconciled with her huſband;

band; and by the ſincerity of her peni-tence, and her exemplary diſcharge of every duty of virtue and religion, in all the departments and relations in which ſhe ſtands in ſociety, does whatever frail human nature can do, to atone for vice, which, though temporary and ſhort, was heinous. She, her huſband, brother, and all her friends, bleſs the day that brought Hamilton and his party, to view the White Horſe on Cherril Downs.

Captain Henry Hamilton was en-gaged in moſt of the glorious enterprizes that diſtinguiſhed the laſt war. Under Jervis he acquired high renown, off St. Vincent's; and ſome months after, being ſent into harbour, he was no ſooner re-fitted, than he was diſpatched to the North Seas; and was one of thoſe, who, at Camperdown, followed Duncan's ex-ample, in breaking the line. The firſt of Auguſt, 1798, brought him to the mouth of the Nile; there he was wound-

ed,

ed, but not dangerously. The following year, he, under Admiralty orders, cruised on the coasts of France and Spain; and though he had no opportunity, from the timidity of the enemy, of attacking any of their war ships, he captured a Spanish galleon; his share of which far exceeded his succession from Capt. Wentbridge. At the expiration of the war, he came to arrange his money concerns, and visit his brother in London. His property in all, little short of a hundred thousand pounds, when vested in the funds at a very low price; rose near thirty per cent. by the peace. He sold out, and purchased a very considerable estate, in the charming vicinity of Doncaster. While at his brother's, 'Squire Mortimer, and his unmarried daughter, arrived on a visit to William and Maria. The young lady was a handsome accomplished girl, about three and twenty; the Captain, a tall, portly, manly, handsome,

but

but weather-beaten ſeaman, near a dozen years older, was captivated by her ap-pearance, and frankly told her his ſenti-ments; nor did ſhe liſten with diſplea-ſure: in a few weeks the nuptials were ſolemnized.

Hamilton and his Maria, the longer they know each other, are the more ten-derly endeared; and have no leſs than five pledges of affection, beſides one or two whom they loſt in infancy. Charles, the eldeſt, is now thirteen; received a conſiderable part of his education at an eminent ſeminary in Kenſington, of which the head, though maſter of an academy, is really a ſcholar and a gentle-man, and totally above the *cuſtom hunt-ing* devices of *hawking and peddling* ſchoolmaſters. Thence he went to Har-row, where he now makes a very emi-nent figure in the fourth form, and alſo diſtinguiſhes himſelf, like his father, at the various athletic exerciſes. Two of

his brothers are under the care of his late maſter, where they have been alſo joined by their couſin Hambden. Miſs Hamilton, now in the twelfth year of her age, has been as fortunately placed as her brothers; having, for ſeveral years, been at Blackland's houſe; and under the tuition of the able, diſcriminating, ſkilful, and prudent governeſs of that eminent ſeminary, makes rapid proficiency in the intellectual and moral parts of education, and in its ornamental accompliſhments and external graces; and both in important and engaging qualifications, ſhe bids fair to equal her eſtimable and charming mother, whom ſhe already ſtrikingly reſembles, in the beauties of her face and perſon. The youngeſt, a daughter, is ſtill at home. William, and his Maria, the former only thirty-nine, and the latter thirty-four, are ſtill as handſome a couple as are to be ſeen in any private party, or even in any

any place of public resort. Unlike the fashionable indifference of too many modern couples, William and his Maria, in all their relaxations and amusements, are to be seen together. At assemblies, plays, operas, park, and gardens, you rarely see the one without the other. Thence they have sometimes experienced the tittering whispers of levity, or the sneers of envy; but without discomposure, or even the smallest notice. Both the Hambdens and Hamiltons dare to support in the face of frivolity and folly, the dignity of virtuous love.

FINIS.

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